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Navy fires 3rd senior officer in past week

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — For the third time this week, the Navy has removed a senior officer from duty aboard a warship — the second from the 7th Fleet, according to a Navy statement Thursday.

Lt. Cmdr. Randall Clemons was relieved of duty Tuesday "due to a loss of confidence in his ability to fulfill his responsibilities as executive officer" of the destroyer USS McCampbell, according to the statement.

Capt. Jonathan Duffy, commanding officer of Destroyer Squadron 15, removed Clemons from his position, the Navy said.

"The U.S. Navy holds executive officers to a very high standard and holds them accountable when those standards are not met," the Navy said in the statement.

The executive officer is the second-in-command aboard a ship and typically manages day-to-day activities, such as maintenance and logistics. The executive officer also takes charge when the commanding officer is absent.

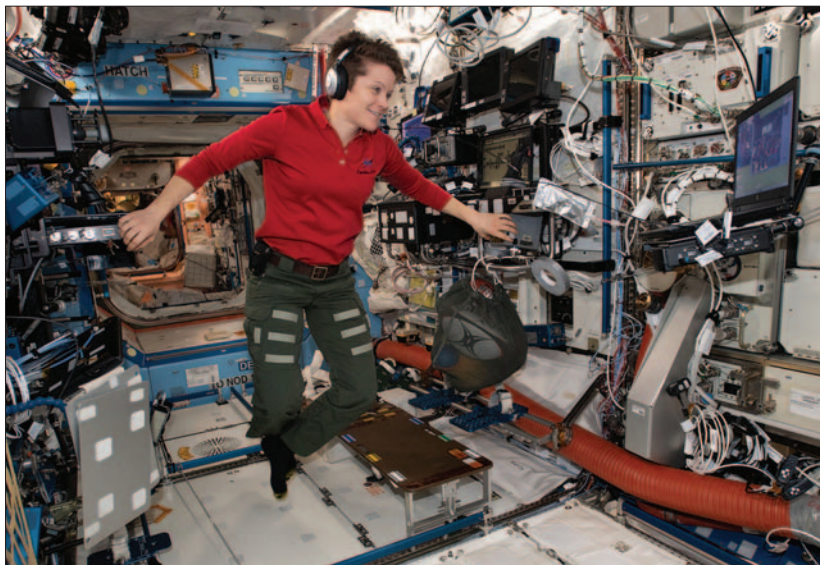
Clemons was "administratively reassigned" within the destroyer squadron, which is based at Yokosuka, according to the Navy statement. Lt. Cmdr. Chris Bland, the squadron's chief staff officer, is assuming interim executive officer duties aboard the USS McCampbell.

SEE NAVY ON PAGE 8



U.S. Navy

Lt. Cmdr. Randall Clemons was relieved of duty as executive officer aboard the USS McCampbell on Tuesday.



NASA

NASA flight engineer Anne McClain looks at a computer screen inside the U.S. Destiny laboratory module of the International Space Station in January. McClain, an Army lieutenant colonel, is one of 12 female astronauts eligible to fly to the moon.

Soldier on NASA short list

Officer has chance to become 1st woman on moon

BY SCOTT WYLAND
Stars and Stripes

Lt. Col. Anne McClain is one of 12 female astronauts who could become the first woman on the moon by 2024, a list compiled by NASA shows.

She's also the only one of the 12 who's in the Army.

After President Donald Trump directed NASA in late 2017 to return to the moon, the space agency said it would make putting the first woman on the lunar surface

one of its key objectives.

But the Army, which most people associate with earthbound, ground warfare rather than space travel, may appear to be an unusual pool from which to draw astronauts.

McClain, who joined NASA in 2013, is nevertheless a seasoned astronaut and has 2,000 flight hours in 20 different aircraft, including the Black Hawk helicopter and C-12 Huron transport plane, under her belt.

SEE MOON ON PAGE 8

A TDY like no other

A lunar sojourn would be the ultimate military temporary duty assignment, but it's not unprecedented.

Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, the second astronaut to walk on the moon, posted on Twitter the travel voucher from his historic trip 50 years ago.

The voucher is presented as a trip from Fort Hood to Waco, Texas, requesting reimbursed travel expenses for July 1969. The TDY starts in Houston and ends at Cape Kennedy, Fla., with stops on the moon and in the Pacific Ocean along the way.

Modes of travel include "spacecraft."

Aldrin was reimbursed a grand total of \$33.31.

He omitted the mileage, which would add up to about 480,000 miles.

— Scott Wyland

WAR/MIDEAST

US, Taliban said to resume talks on ending war

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — A United States envoy and the Taliban resumed negotiations Thursday on ending America's longest war.

A Taliban member familiar with, but not part of, the talks that resumed in Qatar said U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad also met one-on-one Wednesday with the Taliban's lead negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

The Taliban member spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk with reporters.

Baradar is one of the Taliban's founders and has perhaps the strongest influence on the insurgent group's rank-and-file members. Some in Afghanistan fear that Taliban fighters who reject a deal with the U.S. could migrate to other militant groups such as the brutal local affiliate of Islamic State, which claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing at a Kabul wedding over the weekend that killed at least 80 people.

That attack again raised fears among Afghans that a U.S.-Taliban deal will bring little peace for long-suffering civilians who have died by the tens of thousands in the past decade alone.

The U.S. and the Taliban have held several rounds of negotiations in the past year on issues including a U.S. troop withdrawal, a cease-fire, intra-Afghan negotiations to follow and Taliban guarantees that Afghanistan will not be a launch pad for global terror attacks.

Previously, Khalilzad has said the intra-Afghan negotiations will be the occasion to work out thorny issues such as constitutional reforms, the fate of the country's many militias and even the name for Afghanistan, as the Taliban still refers to it as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

It was not immediately clear when a deal might be reached after both the U.S. and Taliban earlier this month signaled they were nearing one. President Donald Trump, who wants to bring home at least some of the 13,000 troops he says remain in Afghanistan before next year's election, was briefed on the negotiations Friday.

This week, Trump said it was "ridiculous" that U.S. troops have been in the country for almost 18 years. Two U.S. servicemembers were killed on Wednesday, joining more than 2,400 U.S. service personnel who have died since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001 to



JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

A Taliban member said U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, above, met one-on-one Wednesday with the Taliban's lead negotiator, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

topple the Taliban, whose government had harbored al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden.

Trump this week also said Afghanistan remains dangerous and "we have to have a presence" — a stance that could complicate talks with the Taliban, whose top demand has been the departure of all U.S. and allied troops, which number close to 20,000. The U.S. and NATO ended their combat mission in 2014 but continue to conduct strikes against the ISIS affiliate and the Taliban and train and build the Afghan military.

The prospect of a troop withdrawal has created widespread concern that another civil war in Afghanistan could follow as various armed parties jostle for power.

Afghanistan was the world's deadliest conflict in 2018, and the United Nations has said more civilians died there last year than in the past decade. Over 32,000 civilians have been killed in Afghanistan in the past 10 years.

The Taliban now control roughly half of Afghanistan and are at their strongest since their 2001 defeat in the U.S.-led invasion.

Head of Iran-backed militia in Iraq walks back US accusation

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — The head of Iraq's paramilitary Shiite forces supported by Iran on Thursday walked back a statement by his deputy the day before in which he blamed Israeli drones and held the U.S. responsible for a series of attacks on bases run by the militia.

Faleh al-Fayyadh said the statement by his deputy, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, did not represent the view of the mainly Shiite paramilitary group known as Popular Mobilization Forces — or the view of the Iraqi government. Al-Fayyadh's statement alleged the attacks on the bases over the past weeks "were the result of an act organized by a foreign side," but refrained from naming that side.

The statements highlight divisions within the militia force, which is headed by al-Fayyadh but practically run by his deputy, a powerful military commander known for his anti-American sentiments.

Iraq's fragile government is walking a fine line trying to manage its alliances with both the United States and Iran amid rising tensions between the two.

Iran wields powerful influence through its support of the militias, which are sanctioned by the Iraqi government and which were a major force in the fight against Islamic State. At the same time, Iraq hosts American troops and forces belonging to the U.S.-led coalition fighting ISIS.

The statements by al-Fayyadh

and al-Muhandis followed at least three mysterious explosions at militia bases and munitions depots around Iraq over the past month, including a massive blast near Baghdad that killed one civilian and wounded 28 on Aug. 12. A government investigation, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press on Wednesday, found the blast near Baghdad was caused by a drone strike.

American officials denied the U.S. had any role in the explosions.

"The U.S. is not involved in the recent warehouse explosions," said Navy Cmdr. Sean Robertson, a Pentagon spokesman.

The blast has also given rise to a host of theories, including that Israel may have been behind the attacks. Israel has struck Iranian bases in neighboring Syria on numerous occasions, and there has been speculation that it might be expanding its campaign to target Iranian bases to Iraq. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied the reports and the Iraqi government has remained mostly mute.

On Wednesday, the statement signed by al-Muhandis broke the silence, saying that the militia group had information that the U.S. brought four Israeli drones to Iraq to carry out reconnaissance and targeting of militia positions. It was not clear from the statement who was being accused of carrying out the attacks but the militia said it holds the U.S. "ultimately responsible for what happened" and vowed to defend itself against future attack.

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MILITARY



U.S. Army

Col. Andrew Landers, M.D., left, briefs Lt. Gen. Michael Bills, Eighth Army commander, on the field hospital conversion concept at Rodriguez Range, South Korea, in March. Hospital components at Camp Humphreys have been reconfigured to provide greater flexibility for missions close to combat.

Humphreys hospital Army's first to change to flexible components

By MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — One lesson the U.S. Army learned over the past 18 years of conflict is that it needs smaller, more agile hospital units closer to combat.

At Camp Humphreys, the 549th Hospital Center is the first unit out of 10 in the active-duty Army to reconfigure itself into smaller components that include two mobile field hospitals and their supporting units.

That way, the unit commander can send the right unit at the size that fits the mission, said Col. Andrew L. Landers, M.D., commander of the 549th and the Brian D. Allgood Army Community Hospital at Camp Humphreys.

"Now we truly do have a scalable force," said Landers. "I can really break it down to decide what units and equipment need to go where to support a mission set."

The hospital center units themselves were versions of the old mobile army surgical hospitals, or MASH units, made famous by the 1970 movie of the same name and the long-running TV series set in the Korean War.

U.S. Army Forces Command in June 2018 ordered all combat support hospitals to convert to smaller hospital units by 2022. Forces Command is the largest Army command; it tailors, trains and prepares units for expeditionary and other duties according to the needs of combatant commanders, according to its website.

The order says the U.S. Army is to convert all combat support hospital units into five distinct hospital, hospital support and forward surgical teams. The teams become a new deployable force

that may be further divided into two 10-person resuscitative and surgical teams that work close to areas of combat.

"After all those years following 9/11 and moving into the post-Iraq War, we noticed we needed a lot more scalable footprint, something that truly was modular," Landers said Monday. "We needed a smaller entry surgical team."

The older combat support hospital design could split its 248 beds into two sections of 84 or 164 beds each, depending on the mission. However, the hospital was structured to operate as one entity due to logistical and pharmaceutical constraints, for example.

With the redesign, the hospital center now consists of the 121st Field Hospital and the 502nd Field Hospital, which are smaller and more agile, with 32 beds each and entirely self-sufficient.

If more beds and services are required, four subordinate units are available to the commander — the 129th, 125th, 150th and 197th medical detachments — along with the 135th Forward Resuscitative and Surgical Team, which is designed to split into two 10-man surgical teams for greater flexibility.

Collectively, the four detachments can provide personnel and up to 176 additional beds, surgical and intensive care capabilities, nutrition and behavioral health services.

"Depending on location there are now a lot more tailorable packages that I can now move around the theater instead of being locked into two places," said Landers. "I can now support four to six places, which could never be done before."

The 549th Hospital Center is currently the only active-duty

unit that has completed the full design update. Landers said several units within the Army Reserve, which provides a lot of deployed medical care, have completed the conversion since the order was issued.

"No design is ever perfect, but the good thing is the Army and Army Medicine is rapidly making changes that fit the current fight," said Landers. "Especially here in Korea, this gives us a lot of options that we never had before."

Landers commands both the 549th Hospital Center and the new \$215 million Allgood hospital, which is scheduled to officially open Nov. 15. He is the former commander of the 121st Combat Support Hospital at U.S. Army Garrison Yongson in Seoul. The hospital deactivated on July 16 after 69 years of service, forming the new Hospital Center and its subordinate units.

Maintaining a combat-ready medical unit is a tricky situation in Korea. Landers has 87 personnel assigned to him that work outside Korea, 77 at Tripler Army Medical Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, with the remainder at Fort Belvoir, Va., Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., Fort Sam Houston, Texas, and Fort Gordon, Ga.

The specialists, such as thoracic or trauma surgeons, attached to his command need to stay in practice, so they are detached to duty stations where their services are in demand, Landers said.

"If we go to war, I need you," he said, "but day-to-day I need that person where they are doing trauma, so they keep their skills up."

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S. Korea ending its intel-sharing pact with Japan

By KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — South Korea will scrap a key military intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, the government said Thursday, as an escalating trade spat between the two U.S. allies spilled over into the security arena.

The surprise decision came despite lobbying by the United States for the two countries to resolve their differences as Washington seeks a united front against the nuclear threat from North Korea and other regional challenges.

The General Security of Military Information Agreement, or GSOMIA, was signed in 2016 to improve intelligence sharing as the North was stepping up its nuclear and missile testing activity.

South Korea said it was terminating the agreement because Japan had brought about "fundamental changes to the environment for the security and cooperation between the two countries" by removing the South from a list of trusted trading partners.

"Under these circumstances, the government decided that maintaining the agreement, which was signed to facilitate the exchange of sensitive military intelligence, does not serve our national interest," President Moon Jae-in's national security council said in a statement after a meeting on the issue.

Seoul will inform Tokyo of the decision via diplomatic channels before Saturday's deadline for renewal, the NSC's deputy director, Kim You-guen, said.

The announcement marks another low point as relations between the longtime rivals have deteriorated to their worst in decades.

A Japanese government source called the decision "extremely regrettable," the Kyodo news agency reported.

Kyodo also quoted Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Kono as saying after a meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Kang Kyung-hwa, earlier this week that the pact was an important part of their bilateral security cooperation and should be maintained.

The intelligence-sharing pact was signed on Nov. 23, 2016, after a previous attempt failed in 2012 due to the tense relations between the two countries.

Experts said its lapse may slow down the exchange of information because the two countries will have to increasingly rely on the United States.

"It's going to be a little bit more work for the two nations to share and exchange information," said

In-bum Chun, a retired South Korean lieutenant general.

The consensus has been that South Korea has strong human intelligence, while the Japanese have satellites and other high-tech systems.

"Although Korea has been able to develop some capabilities, we're not there yet and so we're going to need continuous cooperation through the United States now," Chun said.

"It's like going through a translator and the translator in this case would be the United States," he said. "You always lose something in translation. That's why it was felt that it was important to have direct conversations between Korea and Japan."

Seoul has accused Japan of tightening strict export controls as retaliation for legal steps taken in separate disputes over Japan's brutal colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula from 1910 to 1945.

Tokyo has denied that, saying the trade measures were taken because of unspecified security concerns.

U.S. Army observers predicted South Korea would keep the pact after Moon offered an olive branch to Japan last week, saying that "if Japan chooses the path of dialogue and cooperation we will gladly join hands."

The foreign ministers of the two countries also agreed to keep talking after meeting with their Chinese counterpart in Beijing earlier this week, but the sides announced no progress in the issue despite the looming deadline.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo also urged Seoul and Tokyo to resolve their differences at a trilateral meeting in Thailand earlier this month.

But the issue has touched a nerve in South Korea, triggering a wave of anti-Japanese sentiment including protests and boycotts. South Korea also downgraded Japan's trade status.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.
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'The government decided that maintaining the agreement ... does not serve our national interest.'

South Korean national security council

PACIFIC

100 years of service on the waterfront

Pearl Harbor dry dock marks milestone with new 'Realm of the Sharks' moniker

By **WYATT OLSON**
Stars and Stripes

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM, Hawaii — The Pearl Harbor dry dock that was key in turning the tide of World War II in America's favor was bestowed a Hawaiian name Wednesday to commemorate its centennial anniversary.

Workers at the shipyard labored around the clock for three days in late May 1942 so the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown could take part in the Battle of Midway, regarded by many historians as the turning point in the Pacific war.

Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard's Dry Dock 1, which began operation in 1919 with its flooding, was given a Hawaiian blessing during a Wednesday ceremony and named Keaonamano, which translates to "The Realm of the Sharks."

The shipyard's Building 1 — the site's historic centerpiece that housed the analysts who broke Japan's secret code during World War II — was also given a Hawaiian name: Keaowamalahia, or "The Light in the Time of Peace."

The names were conferred in partnership with the Alii Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, the state's Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the Hawaii Department of Natural Resources.

Dry Dock 1 was built on ground held sacred by the people who lived on the shores of Pearl Harbor, Capt. Gregory Burton, commander of the shipyard, told the audience of roughly 500 attending the ceremony celebrating the 100-year milestone.

The new Hawaiian name is "an offering to their deified ancestors, including the shark goddess, who have protected the inhabitants since the time of creation," Burton said.

He said the name is "quite applicable" for a Navy installation.

"As I understand it, these ancestors act as guardians or protectors," Burton said. "The Navy has been doing the same on a global scale."

Several hundred shipyard employees stood a short distance away watching the ceremony. Addressing them from the podium, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said, "For the past 100 years, you guys, the workers here, have kept our Navy and our different branches fit for fighting."

The 148-acre shipyard — which is made up of 119 buildings and dozens of piers, wharves and other structures — has a workforce of about 5,800 civilians and 540 Navy personnel. It is the single largest industrial employer in the state.

The shipyard was at the heart of the Japanese surprise attack on Oahu on Dec. 7, 1941.

Japanese bombers severely



U.S. Navy

The USS Yorktown undergoes repairs — 72 hours of mad-scrabble work — in Dry Dock 1 at the Pearl Harbor Navy Yard on May 29, 1942, the day before setting sail for Midway Island.

damaged two destroyers being overhauled at Dry Dock 1. The battleship USS Pennsylvania was also in dock, but shipyard worker George Walters helped shield it from Japanese dive bombers by deftly maneuvering the huge crane he operated. His actions helped spare the ship from serious damage.

As sailors and Marines mounted the best defense possible, hundreds of unarmed civilian employees at the shipyard did what they could.

"Civilian workers rushed to put out hundreds of fires around the harbor, organized ammunition-passing parties, worked on disabled engines and cut men out of holds of sunken ships," Burton said. "These workers saved lives. They were protectors."

Perhaps the most significant contribution the shipyard workers made was the 72 hours of

mad-scrabble repair work they did on the carrier USS Yorktown, which had been badly damaged in May 1942 during the Battle of the Coral Sea near Australia.

Experts estimated that the Yorktown would need to be in dry dock for at least two weeks to make it battle worthy.

But the code-breakers working in Building 1 had deciphered enough Japanese naval messages to discover that the enemy fleet was planning a major operation in early June near the Midway Islands, about 1,300 miles northwest of Honolulu.

Pacific Fleet Commander Adm. Chester Nimitz ordered Yorktown to set sail for Midway within three days, where it would join two other American aircraft carriers. Repairs continued as the ship sailed.

Although the Yorktown was sunk during the Battle of Midway,

it played a crucial role in routing the Japanese, who lost four aircraft carriers — a stunning injury from which they never recovered.

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WYATT OLSON/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Gregory Burton, commander of Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, speaks at a ceremony marking the centennial anniversary of the shipyard's Dry Dock 1 on Wednesday.

Lewis back to command MCAS Iwakuni

By **JAMES BOLINGER**
Stars and Stripes

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — A Marine colonel with prior experience at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni returned Thursday to assume command of the base.

Col. Frederick L. Lewis Jr. took over from Col. Richard F. Fuerst in a ceremony in front of a formation of Marines.

Lewis, an F/A-18 Hornet pilot, returns to MCAS Iwakuni after a tour in London as the lead planner for United Kingdom military operations in the Middle East.

He was previously the commander of the Headquarters



Lewis

and Headquarters Squadron at Iwakuni from June 2012 to June 2014. He left that post for studies at the National War College in Washington, according to his official biography.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to return to Iwakuni," Lewis said in a written statement provided to the media before the ceremony. "I am humbled to com-

mand the finest Marines, Sailors, civilians and Japanese partners that make up MCAS Iwakuni.

"The capabilities of this installation, and the special relationship that we have with the community makes this one of the most important locations for US and Japanese forces in the region."

After three years in command, Fuerst, an MV-22 Osprey pilot, departs Iwakuni to become the director of operations for Marine Corps Installations Command at the Pentagon.

During his tenure, Fuerst oversaw the final stages of the \$7 billion overhaul of MCAS Iwakuni, which is home to the Marine

Corps' most advanced fighter, the F-35B Lightning II. He also coordinated the relocation of the Navy's Carrier Air Wing 5 from Naval Air Station Atsugi to MCAS Iwakuni in 2018. The air wing is currently attached to the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, which is based at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan.

MCAS Iwakuni is the home for nearly 16,000 servicemembers and their families from Marine Aircraft Group 12, Carrier Air Wing 5 and Fleet Air Wing 31 of the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force.

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PACIFIC

Drowning child rescued by new Kadena base airman

By CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II
AND AYA ICHIHASHI
Stars and Stripes

CHATAN, Okinawa — Two months after arriving in Okinawa, Air Force Master Sgt. Roger Halle found himself rescuing a 4-year-old boy who nearly drowned at Arah Beach.

Halle, stationed at Kadena Air Base with the 18th Civil Engineer Squadron as the assistant chief of operations, was recognized along with three local lifeguards Monday by Chatan Mayor Masaharu Noguni for their efforts July 26 to revive the boy who was visiting from Hong Kong.

Noguni praised Halle's rapid response to the emergency and credited all first responders' efforts with saving the young boy's life.

"Mr. Halle used his professional skills to save a life with speedy techniques and tremendous courage," Noguni said through an interpreter during a ceremony Monday to present Halle with a letter of appreciation. "I thank you for your daily work and using

the skills to save a life quickly."

Halle, of Willard, Mo., received the letter at the Chatan Town Hall in front of his family and fellow airmen and gave credit to the other lifeguards who were on the scene with him.

"It's not (only) me; I was there to help and assist, but in my opinion, they were the ones who saved his life," he said.

Halle, who works at the air base fire station, said his 13 years as a first responder and his Air Force training kicked in that day at Arah Beach.

Halle, his wife, Stephanie Halle, and their five sons headed for their first trip to the local beach around 3 p.m., he said. About three hours later the announcement played over the loudspeakers that the lifeguards were going off-duty for the day.

According to Halle, his family and other beachgoers stayed around and remained in the shallow and netted areas of the ocean.

Posted signs at the entrance and scattered throughout the beach state that visitors swimming outside of the netted areas after the

lifeguards depart do so at their own risk.

While Halle was talking with another beachgoer, "I heard screaming," he told Stars and Stripes on Aug. 8.

He turned to see a man carrying a child to the shore from the netted area of the water.

"I believe it was the father that was pulling him up, and once I saw him, I knew it was not good," Halle said.

"He was very blue, bloated — it looked like he had been in the water for a while," he said.

With a language barrier between the family of the non-responsive boy and the team of first responders — which included Halle and three off-duty lifeguards — they attended to the child laid on the beach.

"They started doing CPR and giving mouth-to-mouth," Halle said. "Water was pumping out of his lungs, he wasn't breathing. I checked for a pulse and he didn't have a pulse."

Using gear provided by the lifeguards, Halle provided rescue breaths using a pocket mask



CARLOS M. VAZQUEZ II/Stars and Stripes

Air Force Master Sgt. Roger Halle, left, receives a letter of appreciation from Chatan Mayor Masaharu Noguni at Chatan Town Hall in Okinawa, Japan, on Monday.

attached to an oxygen tank in between the lifeguard's chest compressions.

The city fire department and emergency personnel arrived within 10 minutes to evacuate the child to higher medical care.

"Once they loaded him into the ambulance, he was breathing on his own and he was responding to pain," Halle said. "He was unconscious, but he was moaning so we knew he was responding."

The child was taken to the intensive care unit of a local hospital, he said.

"We have a 4-year-old kid and it definitely hit home," Halle said. "We are keeping the little boy in our prayers and we hope that everything works out for the

family."

Two of the three city lifeguards were at the ceremony and said through an interpreter that they try to mitigate these incidents and hope that learning from situations like these encourage visitors to swim during regulated hours and follow posted rules.

"Only thing I was thinking about was to save the child's life," Haruki Suematsu, lifeguard at Arah Beach, said to Stars and Stripes on Monday. "We cannot force people from not swimming after hours and off-season, but I want people to understand that the ocean could be very dangerous."

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MILITARY

Cottages offer more comfort to Marines in Calif.

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

When Marines say they go to every kind and place, they usually mean rugged jungles, inhospitable mountains or dangerous desert terrain.

Now, they can add to that list luxurious cottages just feet away from a sandy beach with gently lapping waves.

The Marine Corps recently dedicated several cottages at San Onofre Beach in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Servicemembers and California residents came together Aug. 15 for a dedication ceremony for the cottages, which have replaced older beach trailers that were beyond repair and would provide a comfortable place for off-duty Marines to relax, the Corps said in a statement earlier this month.

"I think they're awesome," said Marine veteran James Hoyet, who retired from the Corps earlier this month.

"In general, I don't think Marines get nice things. We have the smallest budget ... We get the shorter end of the stick on basically everything, especially when

it comes to extra/new creature comforts."

But over the years, the Corps has been improving the quality of life for Marines with projects like this, Hoyet said.

"It's a noticeable difference than when I first came in," he said.

Each of the cottages has a beach view, and all of them are "built to last," with new metal roofs, composite siding and railings and new, stainless-steel appliances and furniture, the Corps statement said.

The cottages are more luxurious and accessible too. They feature walk-in showers and bigger patios and doorways wide enough to accommodate wounded or disabled servicemembers who use wheelchairs.

Staff Sgt. Connor McGregor, a data network systems chief who recently moved to Camp Pendleton, said Marines there are raving about the cottages.

"One of the first things my wife and I heard about were these cottages on the beach," McGregor said.

The cottages will be an especially good resource for single



PHOTOS ANDREW CORTEZ/U.S. Marine Corps

Marines and their family members, along with representatives from the San Diego Nice Guys charity and Marine Corps Community Services, tour new beach cottages before a dedication ceremony at San Onofre Beach on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., on Aug. 15.



A beach cottage overlooks the ocean.

Marines who live in the barracks, McGregor said.

"They can't invite their relatives to [where they live], so this is a great alternative," he said. "These are a great way for Marines to get rest and relaxation away from the barracks."

The luxury cottages might take some getting used to for Marines who are used to a "more Spartan lifestyle," Hoyet said.



The beach cottages are shown at San Onofre Beach where the ceremony marked the completion of work on the last two cottages.

But with Marines taught to adapt quickly to new environments, that shouldn't be too much of a problem.

"These look great for a weekend," said Hoyet.

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Most C-130s return to flying after Air Force inspection

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — The Air Force has completed inspections of more than a quarter of its fleet of C-130 Hercules transports, which were pulled from flying operations after the discovery of signs of cracking on the wing joints.

Of 113 aircraft inspected, all but one have been cleared to return to operational duty, Air Mobility Command said Wednesday.

Ten other aircrafts singled out for inspection were already undergoing depot maintenance and will be inspected on schedule, officials said.

"This process has been swift, deliberate and effective," Col. Jed McCray, AMC associate director of logistics, engineering and force protection, said in a statement. "Of the 113 C-130s inspected, only one has been found to have a rainbow fitting crack, and that aircraft will require depot-level maintenance to repair it and bring it back into service. All others have been returned to duty without issue."

The upper and lower rainbow fittings connect the outer wings with the center wing box, which sits over the fuselage on a C-130.

AMC Commander Gen. Maryanne Miller on Aug. 7 ordered the temporary grounding of 123 C-130 H- and J-model C-130s, a move that affected more than a quarter of the 450 C-130 aircraft in Air



MICHAEL MASON/U.S. Air Force

Master Sgt. Aaron Sauke, 779th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron loadmaster, completes his engine startup checks on a C-130 Hercules prior to departure at Al Jaleel Air Base, Kuwait, on Aug. 4. All but one of 113 C-130 Hercules aircraft inspected for wing cracks have been returned to operations after being temporarily grounded.

"This process has been swift, deliberate and effective."

Col. Jed McCray

Air Mobility Command associate director of logistics, engineering and force protection

Force inventory.

The suspension came after maintainers discovered cracks on the lower center wing joint on an Air National Guard C-130H model at Robins Air Force Base, Ga.,

during depot maintenance.

Miller's order applied to C-130s in the fleet that had yet to receive an extended service life center wing box and had logged more than 15,000 flight hours.

Each inspection for cracks took about eight hours. AMC said that if cracking was identified, the plane would either be flown to depot or a depot team would be brought to the aircraft locations, depending on the severity of the findings.

The statement did not say where the aircraft found to have cracks was based and where it would be repaired.

The grounding did not affect the Hercules' support to overseas contingency operations, AMC said.

At Ramstein Air Base, Germany, where the 37th Airlift Squadron provides airlift support to military missions across Europe and Africa, only one of its C-130s was pulled for inspection; it was immediately returned to service after no cracks were found.

The Air Force over a decade ago began replacing center wing boxes on all C-130 models except the C-130J — the newest model in the fleet — after center wing boxes began showing cracks earlier than expected.

The four-turboprop Hercules has been the workhorse of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, regularly ferrying troops and flying weapons, ammunition, food, medicine and other supplies to isolated outposts.

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VETERANS

Trump acts to hasten action on disabled vet student debt

By NIKKI WENTLING
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump signed a presidential memorandum Wednesday that directs the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Education to quickly forgive the federal student loan debt of 25,000 totally and permanently disabled veterans.

Veterans who have a 100% disability rating through the VA are already eligible for loan forgiveness, but only half of the 50,000 entitled veterans have received the benefit, according to the White House. The 25,000 veterans who haven't yet received loan forgiveness owe an average of \$30,000, Trump said during a speech at the American Veterans

national convention in Louisville, Ky.

The memorandum, which was signed by Trump at the convention, directs VA and Education Department officials to develop a new process that would help the remaining 25,000 veterans have their loans forgiven. The current process is "overly complicated and difficult," the memorandum states.

"I am taking executive action to ensure that our wounded warriors are not saddled with mountains of student debt," Trump said. "Nobody can complain about that, right? Nobody can complain about that. The debt of these disabled veterans will be totally erased. It will be gone."

The American Veterans organization, more commonly known

as AMVETS, gathered this week to celebrate its 75th anniversary.

The proclamation follows attempts by the VA and Education departments to identify and contact veterans who might be eligible for the loan forgiveness program — called Total and Permanent Disability Discharge — but haven't yet benefited from it.

Veterans have previously had to apply to the Education Department with proof of their service-connected disabilities. The memorandum states the burdensome process has "inflicted significant hardship and serious harm on these veterans and has frustrated the intent of Congress that their federal student loan debt be discharged."

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SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Donald Trump signs a presidential memorandum at the American Veterans 75th National Convention in Louisville, Ky., on Wednesday that directs federal agencies to expedite student loan debt forgiveness for many disabled veterans.

5 indicted in theft of millions from disabled veterans

By ROSE L. THAYER
Stars and Stripes

AUSTIN, Texas — Five people, including a former Army civilian, face federal charges in an international scam that drained millions of dollars from the bank accounts of older, disabled veterans, the Department of Justice announced Wednesday.

The 14-count indictment unsealed Wednesday in San Antonio, Texas, charges five people living in the United States and the Philippines with coordinating an identity theft and fraud scheme targeting servicemembers and veterans, including a former prisoner of war, using personal information stolen by a former civilian employee at a U.S. Army base in Korea.

The defendants — Robert Wayne Boling Jr., Fredrick Brown, Torrice Crawford, Allan Albert Kerr and Jongmin Seek — were charged with multiple counts of conspiracy, wire fraud and aggravated identity theft based on their roles in the scheme.

Boling, a U.S. citizen; Kerr, an Australian citizen; and Seek, a South Korean citizen, were arrested in the Philippines. Brown and Crawford, both U.S. citizens, were arrested in Las Vegas and San Diego, respectively, according to a Justice Department news release.

Brown has been detained pending trial. Crawford is awaiting a detention hearing at the San Diego Metropolitan Correctional Center.

The indictment outlines a scheme that began in 2014 when Brown, a civilian medical records technician employed from 2010 to 2015 at the 65th Medical Brigade at Yongsan Garrison in South Korea, used his smartphone to photograph the medical records of thousands of military-con-

ducted individuals within the database called the Armed Forces Health Longitudinal Technology Application, or AHLTA.

Aside from medical history, the records contained each person's Social Security number, Defense Department identification number, birth date, gender, mailing address and telephone number.

Brown is accused of providing the stolen information to Boling, who exploited the information in various ways together with his Philippines-based alleged co-conspirators Kerr and Seek.

Using that information, the defendants then logged into the eBenefits website, which is managed through a Department of Veterans Affairs server located in western Texas. The indictment states they specifically chose older, disabled veterans because they were less likely to utilize online account services.

Once inside a veteran's account, the defendants had access to bank account information, much of which was held at military-affiliated institutions such as the Navy Federal Credit Union, USAA and the Pentagon Federal Credit Union.

The access also allowed them to steal veterans' benefits payments by changing the bank routing information to an account of their choosing.

After the defendants had compromised military members' bank accounts and veterans' benefits payments, Boling allegedly worked with Crawford to recruit individuals who would accept the deposit of stolen funds into their bank accounts and then send the funds through international wire remittance services to the defendants and others, according to the news release.

Evidence of the defendants' scheme was detected earlier this year, advancing the investigation that led to the indictment.

In one instance, the indictment alleges Seek and Boling rerouted the \$2,900 monthly disability payments of a 76-year-old former Army major with a 100% disability rating who was once a prisoner of war. In another, they drained \$41,000 from the bank account of a 73-year-old former Air Force master sergeant.

"The crimes charged today

are reprehensible and will not be tolerated by the Department of Justice. These defendants are alleged to have illegally defrauded some of America's most honorable citizens, our elderly and disabled veterans and servicemembers," Attorney General William P. Barr said in a statement.

The departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs are coor-

inating with the Department of Justice to notify and provide resources to the thousands of identified victims.

Announcements also will follow regarding steps taken to secure military members' information and benefits from theft and fraud.

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MILITARY

Missile defense contract with Boeing dropped

By ROBERT BURNS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is pulling the plug on a \$1 billion, technically troubled project to build a better weapon that would destroy incoming missiles. The move is aimed in part at considering new approaches to missile defense at a time of rapid technological change.

The announced reason for canceling the Boeing contract, effective Thursday, was that the project's design problems were so significant as to be either insurmountable or too costly to correct.

Beyond those immediate concerns, the Pentagon is considering whether it needs to start over with designing a defense against intercontinental-range ballistic missiles, such as those North Korea aspires to build, as well as newly emerging types of missiles.

One indication of that broader concern is the Pentagon's statement that it will now invite industry competition to develop a "new, next-generation interceptor" — potentially a weapon that could take on hypersonic missiles being developed by China and Russia.

The Pentagon currently has 44 missile interceptors based mostly in Alaska. Each is designed to be launched from an underground silo, soar beyond the Earth's atmosphere and release a "kill vehicle" — a device that steers into its target and destroys it by force of collision.

These weapons have been tested but never used in actual combat.

It is that "kill vehicle" device that the Pentagon had asked Boeing to redesign so that it could be more reliable against the kind of long-range missiles that North Korea has said it is building to target the U.S.

The Pentagon had spent nearly \$1.2 billion on the project when Michael Griffin, the undersecretary of defense for research and engineering, decided last week to end it. In May he had ordered Boeing to stop its work, pending a decision on a way forward.

"Ending the program was the responsible thing to do," Griffin said in a statement Wednesday. "Development programs sometimes encounter problems. After exercising due diligence, we decided the path we're going down wouldn't be fruitful, so we're not going down that path anymore."

Mark Wright, a spokesman for the Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency, said details about the technical problems that led to the project's termination would not be released "due to the classified nature of the program."

Boeing said in a statement that it accepts the decision and supports the competition for a new missile interceptor. Michael Doble, a spokesman for Raytheon Co., which is a subcontractor, said the Pentagon is "updating its requirements in the face of an increasingly complex threat environment." He said Raytheon backs the decision to end the contract.

By saying it will now pursue a "next-generation interceptor," the Pentagon revealed that it sees a requirement not only for a better "kill vehicle" but also an improved booster rocket. In other words, it may be aiming for a weapon that can defend against a wider array of missile threats.

The Pentagon has been authorized by Congress to increase the current fleet of 44 interceptors to 64. The additional 20 were to be equipped by 2023 with the redesigned "kill vehicle" under the Boeing contract. Now that the contract is being canceled, it seems likely that those additional 20 interceptors will not be fielded on time.

FROM FRONT PAGE

"Executive officers are entrusted with significant responsibilities to their Sailors and their ships," the Navy said in its statement. "They are expected to maintain the Navy's high standards for leadership demonstrating competence in their duties at all times."

Clemons enlisted in 1997 and was commissioned in 2003 after graduating from Prairie View A&M University in Texas, ac-

cording to his official Navy biography. He previously served as integrated air missile defense officer for the 7th Fleet. He was the executive officer of the destroyer USS Fitzgerald in the immediate aftermath of the ship's fatal 2017 collision.

His removal came the same day Capt. Tadd Gorman was removed as commander of the cruiser USS Anietiam for "a loss of confidence in his personal judgment and ability to lead," the Navy said in a



Photos by NASA

Mission specialist Shane Kimbrough moves equipment aboard the space shuttle Endeavour. Kimbrough is a retired Army colonel.

Moon: Army background proves useful

FROM FRONT PAGE

Experience in the Army has taught her to work in austere environments with few amenities, and also the value of teamwork, leaving her well-suited for space missions, NASA astronaut and retired Col. Shane Kimbrough said in a recent talk at Redstone Arsenal, Ala.

"It's all about how you interact with people, how you can be a team player, how you can be a leader," Kimbrough said. "All that are things that I learned in the Army, so it has really helped me personally ... at NASA."

McClain's recent stint on the International Space Station also will help her as she competes to be part of NASA's return to the moon, Kimbrough said.

A native of Spokane, Wash., McClain earned a bachelor's degree in mechanical/aeronautical engineering from West Point and master's degrees in aerospace engineering and international relations from the Universities of Bath and Bristol in England.

If chosen, she would be part of NASA's Artemis program, named after the Greek goddess of the moon, who was the twin sister of Apollo — the name of the NASA program that put the first man on the moon 50 years ago.

Two male soldiers also could vie for a place in NASA's first lunar missions in half a century — Col. Andrew Morgan and as-



Army astronaut Lt. Col. Anne McClain exits the Soyuz MS-11 spacecraft minutes after she landed back on Earth on June 25. McClain is one of 12 female astronauts eligible to fly to the moon.

tronaut candidate Lt. Col. Frank Rubio.

NASA's original plan was to resume manned lunar missions in 2028 but the timeline was moved up by four years, to 2024, at the White House's urging.

Part of the renewed interest in returning to the moon is to explore the mass of ice identified at the planet's south pole, NASA says on its website.

Scientists think the ice can be converted to drinking water,

oxygen and hydrogen fuel, which could allow the moon to serve as a way station for voyages to Mars. NASA hopes to get missions to the red planet underway in the 2030s.

The moon's ice also might have uses on Earth, giving the lunar missions economic as well as scientific value, NASA says on its website.

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Navy: Fired commander was previously XO of USS Fitzgerald after collision

FROM FRONT PAGE

"Executive officers are entrusted with significant responsibilities to their Sailors and their ships," the Navy said in its statement. "They are expected to maintain the Navy's high standards for leadership demonstrating competence in their duties at all times."

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His removal came the same day Capt. Tadd Gorman was removed as commander of the cruiser USS Anietiam for "a loss of confidence in his personal judgment and ability to lead," the Navy said in a

statement Tuesday. Gorman was the second Anietiam commander to be fired since 2017 when Capt. Joseph Carrigan was relieved about a month after the ship ran aground off Yokosuka.

Clemons' and Gorman's removals were unrelated, the Navy said in its Thursday statement.

On Monday, the Navy relieved Lt. Cmdr. Jonathan Cebik from his post as executive officer of the attack submarine USS Jimmy Carter, homeported at Naval Base

Kitsap-Bangor, Wash., due to loss of confidence in his personal judgment, according to a Navy statement.

Cebik was also reassigned to an administrative job while the Navy investigates questions about his personal conduct, according to the statement.

Both Clemons and Gorman took on their positions this year. Clemons had served as the McCampbell's executive officer since February, while Gorman

had spent less than three months on the Anietiam before his removal. Cebik spent about a year and four months in his position before his removal.

Gorman was reassigned to Task Force 70, based at Yokosuka, and is now working on the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, according to a Tuesday report by Military.com.

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NATION

Planned Parenthood adapting to funding loss

BY LINDSAY WHITEHURST
AND DAVID CRARY
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Planned Parenthood clinics in several states are charging new fees, tapping into financial reserves, intensifying fundraising and warning of more unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases in the wake of its decision to quit a \$260 million federal family planning program in a dispute with the Trump administration over abortion.

The fallout is especially intense in Utah, where Planned Parenthood has been the only provider participating in the nearly 50-year-old Title X program and will now lose about \$2 million yearly in federal funds that helped serve 39,000 mostly low-income, uninsured people. It intends to maintain its services — which include contraception, STD testing and cancer screening — but is considering charging a small copay for patients who used to get care for free.

Planned Parenthood in Minnesota is in a similar situation, surviving about 90% of the state's Title X patients, and plans to start charging fees due to the loss of \$2.6 million in annual funding.

The organization is concerned about the spread of unintended pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

"We believe there will be a public health crisis created by this denial of care," said Sarah Stoesz, the Minnesota-based president of Planned Parenthood North Central States. "It's a very sad day for the country."

Planned Parenthood and several other providers withdrew from the program earlier this week rather than comply with a newly implemented rule prohibiting participating clinics from referring women for abortions. Anti-abortion activists who form a key part of President Donald Trump's



Karrie Galloway, of Planned Parenthood Association of Utah, speaks during a news conference in Salt Lake City in April. The Utah health provider stands to lose \$2 million in annual U.S. funding after the national organization quit a federal family planning program.

base have been campaigning to "defund Planned Parenthood" because — among its varied services — it is a major abortion provider, and they viewed the grants as an indirect subsidy.

About 4 million women are served nationwide by the Title X program, which makes up a much bigger portion of Planned Parenthood's patients than abortion. But the organization said it could not abide by the abortion-referral rules because it says they would make it impossible for doctors to do their jobs.

Mindy Dotson, a single mother in Utah, is among the women who use the family planning program. She started going to Planned Parenthood as doctors' bills for treating recurring yeast infections mounted. The services became even more important when she gave up her employer-sponsored health insurance because she

couldn't afford the \$500 monthly bill. She is unsure what she'd do if the services stopped.

"It would put me in a very dangerous position," said Dotson, who works as an executive assistant for an accounting and consulting firm.

Planned Parenthood says it's dedicated to maintaining its current services in Utah, but CEO Karrie Galloway acknowledged it won't be easy and could cause some "pain on all sides."

She said the organization plans to lean heavily on donors to make up the funding gap while staff members assess how they'll cope. Among the possibilities are instituting copays of \$10-\$15 per visit, shortening hours and trimming spending.

She doesn't plan to lay off staff, but said she may not be able to fill jobs when people leave or retire.

Trump now says economy doesn't require tax cuts

BY KEVIN FREKING, JOSH
BOAK AND JONATHAN LEMIRE
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A day after witnessing cutting taxes to promote economic growth, President Donald Trump changed course and said he would abandon the idea because the nation already has "a strong economy."

Trump's flip-flop on Wednesday came after recent market volatility and economic uncertainty amid a debate about whether the United States was heading for a slowdown that would imperil his reelection chances. Trump earlier this week acknowledged, for the first time, that his China trade policies may mean economic pain for Americans, though he insisted the tariffs are needed for more important long-term benefits.

But his consideration of cutting payroll taxes appeared short-lived.

"I'm not looking at a tax cut now," he told reporters at the White House. "We don't need it. We have a strong economy."

Trump also knocked down the idea of indexing to the capital gains tax, which applies when investors sell assets, to inflation. He said he feared "it will be perceived, if I do it, as somewhat elitist."

Analysts have warned that a slowdown, if not full-blown recession, could hit before next year's election. Trump, however, has largely praised the economy's performance and his handling of it. He has often blamed the Federal Reserve and Chairman Jerome Powell and the global slowdown for creating dark clouds at home.

"Jay Powell and the Federal Reserve have totally missed the call. It was right and just about

everybody admits that," Trump said Wednesday. "He raised interest rates too fast, too furious, and we have a normalized rate. And now we have to go the other direction."

Some White House advisers fear Trump has undercut Powell's credibility. They worry that the president's calls for rate cuts and his discussion of indexing or a payroll tax cut could spook rather than reassure markets.

Trump indicated he had no choice but to impose the trade penalties that have been a drag on U.S. manufacturers, financial markets and, by some measures, American consumers.

"Somebody had to do it. I am the chosen one," Trump said on the White House lawn, looking skyward. "Somebody had to do it. So, I'm taking on China. I'm taking on China on trade."

China, though, said trade with the U.S. has been "mutually beneficial" and appealed to Washington to "get along with us." A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang, expressed hope Washington can "meet China halfway" in settling disagreements.

The U.S. economy appears to be showing vulnerabilities after more than 10 years of growth. Factory output has fallen and consumer confidence has waned as he has ramped up his trade fight with China.

Trump rattled the stock and bond markets this month when he announced plans to put a 10% tax on \$300 billion worth of Chinese imports.

The market reaction suggested a recession might be on the horizon and led Trump to delay some of the tariffs that were scheduled to begin in September.

Report: US deficit to exceed \$1T next year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The federal budget deficit is expected to balloon to more than \$1 trillion in the next fiscal year under the first projections taking into account the big budget deal that President Donald Trump and Congress reached this summer, the Congressional Budget Office reported.

The return of \$11 trillion annual deficits comes despite Trump's vow when running for office that he would not just balance the budget but pay down the entire national debt.

"The nation's fiscal outlook is challenging," said Phillip Swagel, director of the nonpartisan CBO. "Federal debt, which is already

high by historical standards, is on an unsustainable course."

The office on Wednesday upped this year's deficit projection by \$63 billion and the cumulative deficit projection for the next decade by \$809 billion. The higher deficit projections come even as the CBO reduced its estimate for interest rates, which lowers borrowing costs, and as it raised projections for economic growth in the near term.

The number crunchers at CBO projected that the deficit for the current fiscal year will come to \$960 billion. In the next fiscal year, which begins Oct. 1, it will exceed \$1 trillion.

The CBO said the budget deal signed into law earlier this month,

which took away the prospect of a government shutdown in October and the threat of deep automatic spending cuts, would boost deficits by \$1.7 trillion over the coming decade. Increased spending on disaster relief and border security would add \$255 billion. Downward revisions to the forecast for interest rates will help the picture, trimming \$1.4 trillion.

Swagel said the federal debt will rise even higher after the coming decade because of the nation's aging population and higher spending on health care.

To put the country on sustainable footing, Swagel said, lawmakers will have to increase taxes, cut spending or combine the two approaches.

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NATION

Sanders' climate plan builds on Green New Deal

By JUANA SUMMERS
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders has released a \$16.3 trillion climate plan that builds on the Green New Deal and calls for the United States to move to renewable energy across the economy by 2050 and declare climate change a national emergency.

While the Vermont senator had already endorsed the sweeping Democratic proposal to combat climate change and had teamed up with Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York on climate legislation, Sanders' climate plan provides the most detail yet on how he envisions the climate change moonshot taking shape if he is elected president.

Sanders describes his plan, released Thursday, as a "ten-year, nationwide mobilization centered on equity and humanity" that would create 20 million new jobs. The Green New Deal resolution, which Ocasio-Cortez put forth with Sen. Ed Markey of Massachusetts, calls on the nation to

eliminate its carbon footprint by 2030 and to shift away from fossil fuels such as oil and coal and replace them with renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power.

Among Sanders' ideas is sourcing 100% of the country's electricity from renewable and zero-emissions power. He is calling for committing \$2.18 trillion in grants for low- and middle-income families to weatherize and retrofit their homes and businesses, with the goal of reducing residential energy consumption by 30%. He would charge the Energy Department with making sure that both new and existing commercial structures, as well as high-income homeowners, meet his administration's energy retrofit goals.

Sanders also is calling for an overhaul of the nation's transportation system by investing in electric vehicles, high-speed rail and expanded public transit. He calls for spending \$526 billion in modernizing the electrical grid across the United States.

In his plan, Sanders notes that



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., shown speaking at the Iowa Federation of Labor convention Wednesday in Altoona, Iowa, has released a \$16.3 trillion climate plan.

communities of color are disproportionately affected by the climate emergency. He says the Green New Deal is an "opportunity to uproot historical injustices and inequities to advance social, racial and economic justice."

A Northern California community ravaged last November by the state's deadliest wildfire on record will serve as the backdrop for Sanders' climate announcement. Scientists and policymakers have blamed climate change for California's worsening wildfires, which have killed more than 100 people and destroyed tens of thousands of homes in recent years. As scientists warn of the imminent consequences of global warming, the Green New Deal has been a rallying point for liberals in the party's base as well

as Democratic presidential contenders in the crowded field. But Republicans have argued that the plan is too radical and would drive the economy off a cliff and lead to a huge tax increase.

Sanders is the latest Democratic presidential contender to release details of his climate plans.

Former Vice President Joe Biden released a \$5 trillion-plus climate proposal that he says would lead the U.S. to net-zero emissions of carbon pollution by 2050, and he is calling for \$1.7 trillion in federal spending over 10 years. Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren has proposed investing \$2 trillion in federal funding in clean energy programs as part of a Green New Deal, including her Green Apollo Program to invest in clean energy

research and development and a Green Marshall Plan devoted to encouraging countries to buy and use American-made clean energy technologies. Former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke called for spending \$5 trillion over 10 years to combat climate change.

Sanders' plan calls for a \$16.3 trillion investment and the campaign is proposing covering the costs over 15 years by a patchwork of measures that includes eliminating existing fossil fuel subsidies and taxes on that industry; income tax revenue on the 20 million jobs created by his plan; and an estimated \$1.3 trillion saved through a reduced need for safety net programs because of the creation of those jobs.

Ex-Colo. governor is running for Senate

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI
Associated Press

DENVER — Former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said Thursday that he will run for the U.S. Senate, becoming the immediate front-runner in a crowded Democratic field vying for the right to challenge Republican incumbent Cory Gardner.

He made his announcement via a video message in which he blasted Washington lawmakers over soaring prescription drug prices, the failure to act on climate change and the use of public lands by developers.

"I know changing Washington is hard, but I want to give it a shot," he says. "I'm not done fighting for the people of Colorado."

Hickenlooper last year brushed off entreaties from Washington Democrats to challenge Gardner, widely seen as the most vulnerable Republican senator in the country. Instead, he mounted a longshot presidential campaign that collapsed before it ended



CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/AP

Former Democratic presidential candidate and former Colorado Gov. John Hickenlooper said Thursday he will run for the U.S. Senate.

in mid-August. Many Colorado Democratic and Republican strategists began to view a Hickenlooper entry into the Senate race as inevitable at that point.

Hickenlooper, an oil geologist-turned-brewpub owner who decided to run for Denver mayor in 2003 and won two gubernatorial elections, has loomed over Colorado politics for two decades. But his moderate, consensus-oriented approach may not be as good a fit in a state shifting to the left.

Numerous Democrats — all younger than the 67-year-old former governor — announced their challenges to Gardner after Hickenlooper shifted his sights to the White House, and none has indicated he or she would step aside now. One, state Sen. Angela Williams, warned "this won't be a

coronation."

Some of the candidates raised almost as much campaign money as Hickenlooper did in his brief presidential bid. But national Democrats have been nervous that a messy and expensive primary would lead to a damaged challenger facing Gardner, widely acknowledged as a skilled politician and fundraiser.

"Though he will have to fight for the nomination, Hickenlooper is widely viewed as the front-runner because of his high name identification in the state and good standing among its Democrats."

Though Hickenlooper initially strongly rejected the idea of running for the Senate, saying he wasn't cut out for the job, he reined in his denials as his presidential campaign stumbled.

Trump's fake accent angers Asian Americans leaning left

Associated Press

When Amanda Berg heard reports that President Donald Trump mocked the accents of the leaders of South Korea and Japan at a recent fundraiser, it brought back painful memories from her childhood.

Berg, a Korean American who grew up in Fort Collins, Colo., recalled kids doing the "stereotypical pulling at the eyes and the mocking accent." It made her feel like she was a foreigner in her own community.

Berg, a registered Democrat, is among a growing and crucial bloc of Asian American voters leaning farther to the left in the age of Trump, and his stunt, reported by the New York Post, angered her and many others.

"It empowers people who would be predisposed to doing the kind of thing anyway," said Berg, a high school English teacher in Denver. "And it makes it acceptable to be openly, increasingly discriminating."

Trump has used racist rhetoric to fire up his conservative base ahead of the 2020 election — most notably against four Democratic congresswomen of color. Telling them to "go back" to their home countries triggered widespread

outray last month, but his reported mocking of Asian accents garnered a more tepid reaction.

Some worry the frequency of Trump's racially offensive remarks makes them easier to shrug off, a concern that could weigh on an Asian American voting group that's only growing in power.

The Asian American voting-age population has more than doubled in the past two decades, leaping from 4.3 million in 1998 to 11.1 million in 2018 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A majority of those new voters lean Democratic.

The GOP, meanwhile, remains appealing to Asian Americans who are strongly anti-communist, as many are in Vietnamese communities. Some data also suggests that a large proportion of Filipinos and wealthy, higher-educated Chinese Americans are more likely to go Republican. Natalie Masuko, an associate professor of political science and Asian American studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, said.

The New York Post reported that Trump imitated South Korea President Moon Jae-in and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a fundraiser in the Hamptons this month.

NATION



CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL/AP

A small jet burns after aborting its takeoff in Oroville, Calif., on Wednesday. The two pilots and eight passengers escaped injury.

10 unhurt after aborted jet takeoff

Associated Press

OROVILLE, Calif. — All 10 people aboard a small jet escaped injury Wednesday after the aircraft aborted its takeoff at a small Northern California airport, went off the runway and burst into flames, officials said.

The pilot of the twin-engine Cessna Citation jet aborted its takeoff at Oroville Municipal Airport for unknown reasons shortly before noon, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor said.

The plane was carrying two pilots and eight passengers, and "all were accounted for, no injuries," said Joe Deal, Oroville's fire and police chief.

The jet had complications dur-

ing takeoff that resulted in its catching fire, he said. It slid off the end of the runway, sparking a fire in dry grass. Photos and video from witnesses show the jet's door open and its landing gear apparently retracted. Officials briefly closed nearby Highway 162 before controlling the grass fire at less than 2 acres.

"They were out of the plane quickly," said Rick Carhart, a spokesman for the CalFire/Butte County Fire Department that assisted at the scene. By the time the first fire engine arrived, "the people had already gotten off and vacated the area very quickly," he said.

Carhart said he didn't know if the jet caught fire before or after it left the runway.

The plane was flying from Oroville to Portland International Airport in Oregon, Gregor said.

An FAA website says the model 560XL jet was manufactured in 2003 and is registered to Jotts LLC, with an address that tracks to a firm based in Wilmington, Del., that provides registered agent services to multiple companies.

Deal said it was a personally chartered jet, and its corporate passengers had stayed overnight in Oroville.

Firefighters were able to quickly control the grass fire, but it took more than an hour to extinguish the jet, partly because it had just taken on 400 gallons of jet fuel, he said.

Pilot: Calif. ocean plane crash not a stunt

By STEFANIE DIAZO

Associated Press

The pilot of a small plane that went down in the waters off Northern California is a self-professed thrill-seeker whose stunts have sometimes gotten him in trouble with authorities.

David Lesh and a female passenger spent about a half-hour in the water Tuesday after the single-engine Cessna went down in Half Moon Bay, south of San Francisco. Lesh used his water-resistant cellphone to record himself standing on the wing and then he and his friend in the water.

The plane sank in under a minute.

"There she goes!" Lesh said in one video as the tail bobs in the water.

The video and Lesh's reputation for attention-grabbing led to online speculation that the landing was staged.

Lesh said he recently bought the plane for more than \$200,000 and spent about \$40,000 on upgrades, taking out a loan to pay for the aircraft.

Anyone who believed he would spend so much money on a plane only to sink it must have "lost their mind," Lesh told The Associated Press on Wednesday.



U.S. COAST GUARD/AP

A Coast Guard helicopter crew rescued two people after their plane went down near Half Moon Bay, Calif., on Tuesday.

He also said he had airplane insurance.

Lesh, 34, is a globe-trotting skier and the founder of Colorado-based outdoor company Virtika.

He has gotten into a few scrapes previously while making videos.

Lesh was arrested by police in Boulder, Colo., in 2014 on suspicion of arson after he burned shopping carts while producing a video for his company. He pleaded guilty to criminal mischief.

That same year, the Colorado

Division of Wildlife ticketed Lesh for harassment of wildlife after reports that he was chasing a moose — in a car and on foot — while trying to take a video, San Francisco Bay Area television station KTVU reported.

Lesh said his plan on Tuesday was for friends in a second plane to photograph the first real trip of his single-engine Beechcraft Bonanza with views of the coastline and Golden Gate Bridge.

He had purchased the plane less than three months ago.

The plan was scrapped when the plane lost power while flying at 3,000 feet.

"I just did everything I could to get the motor going again," Lesh said. "The motor was working."

He reached out to Owen Leipelt, the pilot of the second plane carrying the photographer.

Lesh said his plane "skipped along the water" for a few hundred feet without much of an impact. He and his passenger grabbed window shades and seat cushions to help them float in the chilly water teeming with jellyfish as whales breached the surface nearby.

Leipelt, 20, of San Jose, called air traffic control for help and circled over the two people in the water.

Nonprofit to push opioid settlement cash to hospitals

By JULIE CARR SMYTH

Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio — West Virginia University President Gordon Gee and former Ohio Gov. John Kasich are creating a nonprofit that will fight to steer cash from any national opioid settlement to hospitals rather than to local and state governments already sparring for control of the dollars.

Gee and Kasich say Citizens for Effective Opioid Treatment, a 501(c)4 organization to be announced Thursday, will educate policymakers and the public about the negative impact the opioid epidemic has had on health care infrastructure and advance health-related research solutions to the crisis.

"It's an educational effort," Gee said. "We want to help people understand that this is a crisis and that the caregivers — the hospitals, in particular — are really leading the charge in order to be able to both give care and solve the problem."

The duo's plan is the latest move in a tug-of-war over what to do with the potential billions that could flow from a national opioid settlement with drugmakers and distributors if one is reached. Some individual settlements with counties and states have already been reached, and larger pharmaceutical companies could yet cut deals as the clock ticks to ward the first trial, which is set for October.

Local governments are asking the Cleveland-based federal judge who is overseeing the majority of more than 2,000 lawsuits over the toll of opioids to let them distribute money among themselves. They say being able to negotiate as a group on behalf of all or most local governments would make it possible to reach a deal with the industry.

They argue the crisis has hit local governments especially hard as they've needed to spend more on police, jails and other programs.

Most state attorneys general oppose that plan, saying the states would be in the best position to dole out money to local governments and to create large-scale prevention and treatment programs.

Both Gee and Kasich said their nonprofit isn't intended as an attack on local governments. But Kasich, who was criticized as governor for cuts to the state's local government fund, said large sums of undedicated money can tend to migrate.

"I'm not here to kind of tell the attorney generals what to do.

If they can get a settlement and these communities can be reimbursed, good for them," he said.

"But I don't want the money to go to fill potholes or to fill a budget gap or something like that. I want the money to go to the people who are on the front lines because they are right up against the wall."

Gee and Kasich developed a relationship when Kasich was Ohio's governor, beginning in 2011, and Gee was president of Ohio State University.

Gee — himself a prolific fundraiser — said he enlisted Kasich's help with the nonprofit for his political acumen. Gee called Kasich "a rainmaker and a door opener" who "knows everyone."

Under IRS rules, the new tax-exempt nonprofit — which can raise unlimited amounts and not disclose its donors to the public — must "primarily" engage in social welfare and helping the community, meaning at least half its budget has to go to activities such as education rather than to political lobbying.

Gee said a companion entity is planned whose collections can be spent more freely.

Hospitals in West Virginia, including one system separately chaired by Gee, sued some of the largest makers of the powerful painkillers in April, seeking monetary damages to cover the costs of the crisis. The epidemic has spread to include street drugs, such as heroin and illegal fentanyl.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says opioids were involved in more than 47,000 deaths in both 2017 and 2018.

Gee said hospitals have had to cope with front-line health care costs, the space requirements of patients unable to go home, the associated medical needs of children and newborns and added workload and security costs.

He said the nonprofit will solicit private donations to spread its message. Kasich said he will speak out publicly, write op-eds and appear in videos.

The idea of having a private foundation handle at least some of any money from an opioid settlement isn't new. A group of public health groups including the Public Health Advocacy Institute at Boston's Northeastern University filed papers in court in May calling for such an entity.

The group said one of the successes from a 1998 national tobacco settlement was the \$1.7 billion that went to such a group and helped reduce youth smoking.

NATION

Va. to mark anniversary of slaves' arrival

By BEN FINLEY
Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. — Four hundred years after American slavery and democratic self-rule were born almost simultaneously in what became the state of Virginia, ceremonies will mark the arrival of enslaved Africans in the mid-Atlantic colony and seek healing from the legacy of bondage that still haunts the nation.

The weekend ceremonies in Tidewater Virginia will unfold against the backdrop of rising white nationalism across the country, tweets by President Donald Trump widely deemed racist and a lingering scandal surrounding the state's governor and a blackface photo.

The commemoration will include Sunday's "Healing Day" on the Chesapeake Bay where two ships traded men and women from what's now Angola for food and supplies from English colonists in August 1619. A bell will ring for four minutes, while churches across the country are expected to join.

Virginia's two U.S. senators and its governor will make remarks at a Saturday ceremony. A family that traces its bloodline to those first Africans will hold a reflection at its cemetery on Friday.

"This moment means everything to folks like myself who are African American and to the folks on the continent of Africa as well," said Mary Elliott, curator of American slavery at the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.

"But it should mean something to everybody, regardless of race because it is a moment that defined the nation — what became the nation," she added.

Though little is known at the time, the arrival of the enslaved Africans in England's first successful colony is now considered a pivotal moment in American history.

Englishman John Rolfe documented the landing of the first ship, the *White Lion*, at what was then called Point Comfort. He wrote that leaders of the colony traded provisions to buy the slaves.

From the *White Lion* and a second ship, English colonists took more than 30 Africans to properties along the James River, including Jamestown.

By that time, more than 500,000 enslaved Africans had already crossed the



STEVE HELBER/AP

Terry E. Brown, superintendent of the Fort Monroe National Monument, poses next to a historical marker that signifies the spot of the first landing of Africans in America 400 years ago at Fort Monroe in Hampton, Va., on Aug. 15.

Atlantic to European colonies, but the Africans in Virginia are widely considered the first in English-controlled North America. They came 12 years after the founding of Jamestown, England's first permanent colony, and weeks after the first English-style legislature was convened there.

Quentin Kidd, a political science professor at Christopher Newport University, said the commemoration's timing "speaks to the very contradictions on race that have been part of this nation from its founding."

"We want to recognize this historic event," Kidd said. "And at the same time, we have a president who spouts off racist things. And we have a governor who still has not satisfied everybody when it comes to the blackface scandal."

In February, a picture surfaced from Gov. Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook page showing a man in blackface next to someone in Ku Klux Klan clothing. Northam denies being in the photo. An in-

vestigation failed to determine whether he was or not.

The Democrat will speak Saturday about "the atrocity of slavery" and "the racial inequities that continue to persist," his press secretary, Alena Yarmosky, wrote in an email.

The 1619 commemoration comes at a time of growing debate over American identity and mounting racial tension, from Washington to the site of a mass shooting in El Paso, Texas.

It also follows recent racist tweets from Trump. One called on four Democratic congresswomen to "go back" to their home countries, even though three were born in the U.S. Another tweet attacked Democratic Rep. Elijah Cummings, calling his majority-black Baltimore district a "disgusting, rat and rodent infested mess" where "no human being would want to live."

Yet Trump also signed into law the "400 Years of African-American History Com-

mission Act" requiring a panel to develop programs that acknowledge the Africans' arrival and slavery's impact.

Among the commission's members is Terry E. Brown, the first black superintendent of the Fort Monroe National Monument, a former U.S. military base in Hampton that is on the site of the Africans' 1619 arrival.

"For me, a great nation pays attention and remembers its history no matter how complex it is," said Brown, who will launch the countdown for the bell ringing on Healing Day.

Brown said the idea of Healing Day is for people from all walks of life "to talk, to laugh, to cry and in some small way to break the insidiousness of racism."

"I want the nation to walk away knowing that the contributions of Africans and African Americans in this country are so significant that they warrant an anniversary like this," he said.

Epstein's will, signed days before suicide, could limit accusers

By CURT ANDERSON
Associated Press

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The will that Jeffrey Epstein signed just two days before his jailhouse suicide puts more than \$577 million in assets into a trust fund that could make it more difficult for his dozens of accusers to collect damages.

Estate lawyers and other experts say prying open the trust and dividing up the financier's riches is not going to be easy and could take years.

"This is the last act of Epstein's manipulation of the system, even in death," said attorney Jennifer Freeman, who represents child sex abuse victims.

Epstein, 66, killed himself Aug. 10 in New York while awaiting trial on federal sex trafficking charges.

The discovery of the will with its newly created 1953 Trust, named after the year of his birth, instantly raised suspicions he did it to hide money from the many women who say he sexually abused them when

they were teenagers.

By putting his fortune in a trust, he shrouded from public view the identities of the beneficiaries, whether they be individuals, organizations or other entities. For the women trying to collect from his estate, the first order of business will be persuading a judge to pierce that veil and release the details.

From there, the women will have to follow the course they would have had to pursue even if Epstein had not created a trust: Convince the judge that they are entitled to compensation as victims of sex crimes. The judge would have to decide how much they should get and whether to reduce the amounts given to Epstein's named beneficiaries, who would also be given their say in court.

"Wealthy people typically attempt to hide assets in trusts or other legal schemes. I believe the court and his administrators will want to do right by Epstein's victims, and if not, we will fight for the justice that is long overdue to them," attorney Lisa

Bloom, who represents several Epstein accusers, said in an email.

She said attorneys for the women will go after Epstein's estate in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where the will was filed and where he owned two islands.

Bloom said it was "gross negligence" on the part of Epstein's lawyers and jail personnel to allow him to sign a new will, given that he had apparently attempted suicide a short time before. Bloom called a will "a classic sign of impending suicide for a prisoner."

The assets listed in the 20-page document include more than \$561 million in cash; properties in New York, Florida, Paris, New Mexico and the Virgin Islands; \$18.5 million in vehicles, aircraft and boats; and art and collectibles that will have to be appraised.

Typically in any case, trust or not, there is a pecking order of entities that line up to get a share of an estate, said Stephen K. Urice, a law professor at the University of Miami.

First in line would be the government — in Epstein's case, several governments — which will collect any taxes owed on his properties and on his estate itself.

Next would be any other creditor to whom Epstein owed money, such as a bank or mortgage company. Lawsuits against the estate by victims would come into play somewhere after that.

Epstein's only known relative is a brother, Mark Epstein. It is unclear whether he was named a beneficiary.

One other possibility is that the U.S. government will seek civil forfeiture of Epstein's bank or other assets on the grounds that they were used for criminal purposes. Government lawyers would have to produce strong evidence of that at a trial-like proceeding.

If they prevailed, they would be able to seize the properties, sell them and distribute the proceeds to victims.

"The fact that there is a will should not stop them," said Cheryl Bader, a professor at the Fordham University School of Law.

NATION

California king salmon returns after drought

By **TERENCE CHEA**
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — Trolling off the California coast, Sarah Bates leaned over the side of her boat and pulled out a long, silvery fish prized by anglers and seafood lovers: best king salmon.

Reeling in a fish “feels good every time,” but this year has been surprisingly good, said Bates, a commercial troller based in San Francisco.

Bates and other California fishermen are reporting one of the best salmon fishing seasons in years, thanks to heavy rain and snow that ended the state's historic drought.

It's a sharp reversal for chinook salmon, also known as king salmon, an iconic species that helps sustain many Pacific Coast fishing communities.

Commercial salmon catches have surpassed official pre-season forecasts by about 50%, said Kandice Morgenstern, a marine scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Harvests have been particularly strong in Morro Bay, Monterey and San Francisco but weaker along California's northern coast.

“We're really surprised to be seeing this many fish being landed so far this season,” Morgenstern said.

The salmon rebound comes after three years of extremely low catches that resulted from poor ocean conditions and California's five-year drought, which drained the state's rivers and reservoirs.

Over the past several years, regulators imposed severe fishing restrictions to protect



ERIC RISBERG/AP

Cooper Campbell, right, with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, looks for chinook salmon on July 22 at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco. California fishermen are reporting one of the best salmon fishing seasons in more than a decade.

chinook salmon, and officials declared federal fishery disasters in 2018 to assist fishing communities in California, Oregon and Washington.

This year's adult salmon are the first class to benefit from record rainfall that filled California rivers and streams in early 2017, making it easier for juvenile chinook to migrate to the Pacific Ocean, where they grow into full-size fish.

Chinook salmon are also being helped by improved ocean conditions that have produced an abundance of anchovies, krill and other feed. Several years ago, an El Nino event brought unusu-

ally warm water to the Pacific Coast and disrupted the marine ecosystem.

“For the salmon fishermen who've been dealing with disaster for so long, this is an incredible boon to their livelihoods,” said Noah Oppenheim, who heads the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations.

The strong salmon season, which typically runs from May to October, is positive environmental news at a time of growing anxiety about climate change. A United Nations report released this month warns that global warming threatens food supplies worldwide.

Morgenstern said climate change is creating greater fluctuations in ocean and river conditions, making chinook fisheries “less stable, less predictable and more challenging for fishery managers.”

Most of the chinook salmon now being caught come from the Sacramento River and its tributaries, where they spawn. Many were raised in state-run hatcheries, then released into rivers to swim to the ocean. Harvests of chinook from rivers farther north have not been strong.

For consumers, the bountiful harvest has driven down wild salmon prices to \$15 to \$20 per

pound, compared with \$30 to \$35 per pound in recent years. Fishermen are making up for the difference by catching more fish.

“The market is dictating right now that there's a lot of salmon, so the customers don't have to pay as much,” said Gordon Drysdale, culinary director at Scoma's, a seafood restaurant at Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco.

The wharf is one of many California fishing communities benefiting from the salmon boom. Pier 45, where boats unload their fish, hasn't been this busy in many years, said Larry Collins, who runs the San Francisco Community Fishing Association.

“This year started out with a bang, and it's just keeping hanging the whole time,” Collins said. “We're all really excited and happy the fish showed up.”

On a recent morning, commercial fisherman Brand Little, who sells to customers in the Lake Tahoe area, returned from four days of fishing with nearly 200 salmon weighing more than 2,000 pounds combined.

“Best trip of the season,” Little said. “It's been a long time coming.”

The salmon boom is also welcomed by sport fishermen and the boat operators who take them out to the ocean.

“When the fish are biting, it's always good for business for us,” said Mike Rescino, who runs a charter boat. “When the people see the big reports, they're going to come out and go fishing with us.”

‘Stranger Things’ fans travel to fictional town of Hawkins in Ga.

By **ANDREA SMITH**
Associated Press

PALMETTO, Ga. — Soon after Netflix released “Stranger Things,” fans of all ages came into Bradley's Big Buy grocery store in Palmetto dressed like characters from the show and wandered toward the Eggo waffles aisle, cameras in hand.

They sought out the exact spot where “Stranger Things” star Millie Bobby Brown filmed a scene as the character Eleven, and they're still coming three years later, even after the store changed its name and became part of the Piggly Wiggly franchise.

Palmetto is a town of barely 5,000 people about 25 miles southwest of Atlanta where the grocery store cashiers greet customers by name. But after “Stranger Things” premiered in 2016, it became routine for employees to also welcome fans from around the globe. Fans have visited daily since the store reappeared in the third season of July 4, said Piggly Wiggly manager David John-

ston. About 50 fans showed up on one particularly busy Saturday in mid-July, he said.

“You can spot them in the crowd when they come in here,” Johnston said. “The girl that other day was dressed like Eleven, all the way to the blood running down her nose.”

Eleven is a main character of the series known for her mysterious mind powers and the subtle nosedee she gets after activating those powers.

The nostalgic '80s sci-fi series broke Netflix records with its third season. Within four days of release, 40.7 million accounts had started watching it and 18.2 million had already finished it entirely, Netflix announced on Twitter.

Creators Matt and Ross Duffer set the series in fictional Hawkins, Ind., but filmed in Georgia, which offers tax breaks and other incentives to moviemakers and whose economy in return reaps \$9.5 billion annually from the film industry, according to a 2018 Georgia Department of Economic Devel-

opment report.

A building on Emory University's Briarcliff Campus in Atlanta served as the show's Hawkins Laboratory, where all sorts of suspicious activity occurs. In Duluth, crew transformed a vacant wing and food court in Gwinnett Place Mall into Starcourt Mall, a bustling hangout where much of the third season takes place.

The mall remains open to shoppers but has disappointed fans who visit for a “Stranger Things” experience. A guard posted outside the wing used in filming shoos away anyone who attempts to enter or take a photo. Fans can take photos of the exterior, which looks similar to the building that appears in the show.

Johnston said he's happy to give quick tours of Piggly Wiggly and explain where fictional events took place.

Fans like to re-create this scene onsite, and some ask Johnston to play the baffled employee and chase them out of the store, he said. He usually obliges.

“We've had a ball with it over-



ANDREA SMITH/AP

Brinley Rawson, a “Stranger Things” fan from Gwinnett County, snaps a photo of Gwinnett Place Mall in Duluth, Ga., on July 23. “Stranger Things” filmed much of its third season at the mall, which was called Starcourt Mall in the show.

all,” Johnston said. “Everybody here goes out of their way to accommodate them.”

Johnston said the store's Eggo waffles sales have tripled. Employees don't require visitors to make a purchase, but most buy something anyway, including themed T-shirts with the phrase, “The strangest things happen at Bradley's Big Buy.”

Businesses in Jackson are also benefiting from new customers in town. Throughout the series, downtown Jackson was portrayed as the town of Hawkins, where key characters played by Winona

Ryder and Sean Astin worked.

Lucy Lu's Coffee Cafe opened downtown in 2017, about a year after the first season's release. Within months, the cafe had created a “Stranger Drinks” menu. Popular beverages include the Sheriff Hopper, a hazelnut and vanilla coffee drink, and the Demogorgon, a frappe with blood-red food coloring named after the monster that rampages through Hawkins.

Head barista Jacyi Fitzmayer said the menu has been a hit with visiting fans and locals.

NATION

West Coast tries to fight fire with fire

By BRIAN MELLEY
Associated Press

KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARK, Calif. — The thick scent of smoke hung in the midday air when a trail along the Kings River opened up to an ominous scene: flames in the trees and thick gray smoke shrouding canyon walls.

Firefighters were on the job. In fact, they had started the blaze that chewed through thick ferns, blackened downed trees and charred the forest floor. The prescribed burn — a low-intensity, closely managed fire — was intended to clear out undergrowth and protect the heart of Kings Canyon National Park from future wildfires that are growing larger and more frequent amid climate change.

The tactic is considered one of the best ways to prevent the kind of catastrophic destruction that has become common from wildfires, but its use falls woefully short of goals in the U.S. West. A study published in the journal *Fire* in April found the number of prescribed burns on federal land in the last 20 years across the West has stayed level or fallen despite calls for more.

Prescribed fires are credited with making forests healthier and stopping or slowing the advance of some blazes. Despite those successes, there are plenty of reasons they are not set as often as officials would like, ranging from poor conditions to safely burn to bureaucratic snags and public opposition.

After a wildfire last year largely leveled the city of Paradise and killed 86 people, the state prioritized 35 brush and other vegetation-reduction projects that could all involve some use of intentional fire, said Mike Mohler, deputy director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Despite the push for more burns, there are disastrous reminders of prescribed fires blowing out of control — such as a 2012 Colorado burn that killed three people and damaged or destroyed more than two dozen homes.

Overcoming public fears by teaching about “good smoke, bad smoke, out-of-control fire and prescribed fire” is just one hurdle before firefighters can put match to kindling, Mohler said.

It's the difference between fire under our terms and fighting fire on Mother Nature's terms,” he said.

It can take years to plan and clear federal, state and local environmental and air pollution regulations. A burn among giant sequoias once took 13 years to accomplish, said Michael Theune, a spokesman for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

In the American West, where the landscape is steep and downed trees, brush and other fuels have built up over decades of fire suppression, the so-called burn window can be short because of hot, dry conditions.



PHOTOS BY BRIAN MELLEY/AP

Firefighter Charles VeaVea, right, pours flame from a drip torch as his supervisor, Isaias Garcia, monitors a prescribed fire in Kings Canyon National Park, Calif., on June 11.



Firefighter Andrew Pettit, right, walks among the flames in Cedar Grove as fire ecologist Tony Caprio, center, takes a photo and firefighter Julio Campos looks on during the prescribed fire in Kings Canyon National Park.

Relaxing environmental restrictions has cleared the way for more prescribed fires in some cases.

Oregon recently changed air quality rules for planned fires to strike a balance between smoky winter skies and bad summer blazes. California proclaimed a state of emergency to allow it to fast-track brush clearing.

Most states and federal agencies in the U.S. West have ambitious goals they don't achieve, said Crystal Kolden, a University of Idaho forest and fire science professor whose study concluded that not enough prescribed fires are being done in the region.

“They know they need to be doing more prescribed fire, they want to be doing more prescribed fire,” she said. “They are simply unable to accomplish that.” Opponents cite the threat to

wildlife and release of greenhouse gases. In California, some environmentalists opposed intentional burns because they can destroy natural drought-tolerant shrubs and replace them with flammable invasive weeds and grasses.

Rick Halsey, of the California Chaparral Institute, said reintroducing fire through prescribed burns is appropriate in the Sierra Nevada, where more frequent lightning-sparked fires and blazes historically set by Native Americans are believed to improve forests by clearing brush to allow taller trees to thrive and opening sequoia seed pods so they can reproduce.

But Halsey said prescribed fires don't help much of the rest of the state. The fire that tore through Paradise showed how ineffective clearing underbrush can

be — it roared across 7 miles that had burned just 10 years earlier.

“It was still grasses and weeds and shrubs, and that's the model these prescribed burning advocates have used,” Halsey said. “They say if we have younger fuels on the landscape, we'll have less fires or lower intensity fires, and we can use those areas to protect communities. And that has never happened in wind-driven fires.”

The state acknowledged in a draft environmental impact report that clearing vegetation may not slow or halt extreme fires.

But successful prescribed burns can save property from some future fires, supporters said.

Four years ago, Cedar Grove in the bottom of Kings Canyon escaped a massive lightning-ignited fire — flames burned up to

where periodic prescribed burns had thinned undergrowth. About \$400 million in property, including employee housing, lodging, campgrounds and a water treatment plant, was spared, said Theune, the parks spokesman.

Last winter was a very wet one in California, and that left brush and vegetation less volatile through spring. In Kings Canyon, firefighters returned in June to burn different segments along a narrow strip of pines, cedars and manzanita between the raging Kings River and a road that ends in the canyon.

With other firefighters standing by in case embers escaped, a half-dozen members of the park's Arrowhead Hot Shots methodically dripped flame from gas-and-diesel torches to ignite dry pine needles, twigs and other accumulated material.

A mosaic-like pattern of fire crept through grasses, pine cones and dead branches. Downed ponderosa pines became occasional flashpoints. Teams with hoses doused flames that threatened to climb living trees.

Ideally, Sequoia and Kings Canyon parks would burn 10,000 or more acres a year, Theune said. The annual target is about a fifth of that, and the actual acreage burned often falls far short of that goal.

Over two days, the fire crew blackened the 218 acres targeted, doubling the total area burned last year in the two parks.

But it was merely 10% of the parks' annual goal and just a tiny fraction of land in the U.S. West that could be treated with prescribed fire.

WORLD



ROSCOSMOS SPACE AGENCY PRESS SERVICE/AP

Giant leap for robotkind

A Roscosmos employee works on the Fedor robot on July 26 before it was loaded into a Soyuz capsule to be launched by a new Soyuz 2.1a rocket from the launch pad at Russia's space facility in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. The new Russian rocket blasted off Thursday, carrying a Soyuz capsule with the humanoid robot that will be tested in spaceflight conditions aboard the International Space Station.

UK leader heads to Paris to press for fresh Brexit talks

BY SYLVIE CORBET
AND DANICA KIRKA
Associated Press

PARIS — Prime Minister Boris Johnson is likely to find little support for his drive to reopen Brexit negotiations when he meets with French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday, the second stop on his first European tour as leader of the British government.

Johnson was buoyed Wednesday by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who raised the possibility that a negotiated departure from the European Union may still be possible if Britain comes up with alternative plans for the Irish border within 30 days.

But Macron has already dampened expectations for his meeting with Johnson, saying renegotiating the Brexit deal is "not an option."

Johnson is seeking concessions from the EU to win support in the British Parliament, which has already rejected three times the agreement negotiated by his predecessor.

"We must help the British deal

with this internal democratic crisis, but we mustn't be hostage to it nor export it," Macron told reporters Wednesday, referring to the British government's struggle to honor the result of the 2016 referendum in which the country voted to leave the EU.

Johnson became prime minister last month when former Prime Minister Theresa May stepped down after failing to secure parliamentary approval for the withdrawal agreement she hammered out in more than two years of talks with EU leaders.

The primary sticking point is the so-called backstop, which would keep the U.K. closely aligned with the EU if the two sides can't find another way to prevent the return of border checks on the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Macron said the backstop, that Johnson rejects, is indispensable. "We would not be willing to reconsider what made peace possible in Ireland," Macron said.

Macron also insisted the EU single market must be preserved.

Otherwise, that would mean telling EU citizens "we can't protect you as consumers and producers anymore because we must be nice to Mr. Johnson. No," he said.

Macron added that France is prepared for a scenario of a no-deal Brexit even though that's not the country's preferred option.

The EU has twice delayed Britain's departure date, which is now scheduled for Oct. 31. Johnson says Britain will leave the EU on that date, with or without an agreement, raising concerns about economic damage on both sides of the English Channel.

Speaking alongside Johnson on Wednesday in Berlin, Merkel indicated that an agreement might yet be reached, but she said it was up to Britain to offer a solution to the contentious Irish border issue.

Her comments marked a departure from the pessimism that has prevailed on both sides in recent months. While the EU has ruled out renegotiating the Brexit agreement, Johnson says the backstop must be scrapped.



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WORLD



VINCENT YU/AP

A protester holds a sign reading "God bless Hong Kong" during a demonstration by students and others in Hong Kong on Thursday.

Hong Kong students plan class boycott in protest

Associated Press

HONG KONG — Hong Kong university student leaders said Thursday they'll call for a boycott of the government to respond to the protest movement gripping the city since June.

Student union leaders from 10 universities said they want students to skip the first two weeks of classes in September. They vowed to escalate their action if the city's Beijing-backed leader, Carrie Lam, fails to respond by Sept. 13.

Young people have been at the forefront of the Chinese city's protest movement, which was sparked by calls for the withdraw-

al of an unpopular extradition bill. The bill, which would have allowed suspects to be extradited to mainland China where the judiciary is not independent, was eventually shelved but the crisis has since spiraled and supporters now have four other demands, including full democracy.

"Two weeks should be enough for the government to really think through how to respond to the five demands," said Davin Wong, acting president of the Hong Kong University Students' Union.

The student leaders said they haven't decided how to step up their action after the first two weeks, but it could include an open-ended general strike.

Syrian government opens path for civilians in rebel-held area

By ALBERT AJI
AND SUZAN FRASER
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian authorities on Thursday opened a "humanitarian corridor" so civilians from a besieged, rebel-held area in the north of Hama province can leave and move to parts of the country controlled by the government, the Foreign Ministry said.

Government warplanes, meanwhile, carried out an airstrike close to a Turkish military post in northwestern Syria, raising tensions between the two neighbors. Turkey is a strong backer of the Syrian opposition and rebels fighting President Bashar Assad's forces.

There was no immediate word of any casualties in the strike.

The ministry said the corridor was opened in the village of Soran, on the southern edge of the rebel-held area that has been under siege by Syrian troops since Wednesday.

Insurgents in Syria have suffered a series of setbacks over the past three weeks in the face of a stepped-up government offensive

in the country's northwest — the last rebel-held territory in Syria.

On Wednesday, government forces fully took control of the town of Khan Sheikhoun in Idlib province after an al-Qaida-linked group pulled out, and launched a siege on rebel-held towns and villages in the northern parts of adjoining Hama province.

The besieged area in Hama is home to tens of thousands of civilians, as well as insurgents and Turkish troops, based in an observation post in the village of Morek. Since a deal with Russia last year, Turkey has maintained 12 such posts in and around Idlib province.

Turkey's state-run news agency said a Turkish observation post, north of Khan Sheikhoun, came under "harassing fire" by Syrian government jets Thursday. The Anadolu Agency reported no damage or injury in the incident, which involved a different Turkish post than that in Morek.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Syrian warplanes struck an area nearly 300 yards from the Turkish military post.

The incident comes days after

airstrikes targeted a Turkish army convoy heading toward another Turkish observation post, killing three civilians and wounding 12 others.

Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem vowed that Damascus will not stop combating insurgents until all of Syria comes under government control.

Al-Moallem, who made his comments while receiving China's special envoy to Syria, Xie Xiaoyan, said the fighting would continue "despite the Turkish intervention, which tries to help these terrorist groups and provides them with unlimited support."

On Wednesday, Syrian warplanes carried out airstrikes on towns and villages north of Khan Sheikhoun, including the town of Maaret al-Numan, according to opposition activists.

Maaret al-Numan, like Khan Sheikhoun, sits on the highway linking Damascus with the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's largest. Government forces are trying to eventually open that highway.

STARS AND STRIPES

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

County creates plan to capture loose emu

NC HILLSBOROUGH — Officials in North Carolina have tracked down an emu who's been on the loose for several weeks, but he hasn't been captured.

The Orange County Government posted a photo of Eno the Emu with a bowl of food and a bucket of water on its social media pages.

The update said Orange County Animal Services is leaving the items for the emu.

News outlets reported Eno has been on the run since June. It's unclear where he escaped from.

Nothing inside capsule from 50 years ago

NH DERRY — Officials in a New Hampshire town are trying to figure out how a recently opened time capsule from 50 years ago has nothing in it.

Library director Cara Potter in Derry told WMUR-TV that since she started there five years ago, the safe has been sitting on a shelf. Before that, it was kept at the old municipal building in town.

The combination was on the back of the safe. Potter said it took several tries to get it open recently on the 50th anniversary of when it was sealed in 1969. But it was empty.

State to restore Huey helo for firefighting

WA OLYMPIA — An aircraft nearly 50 years old is being restored to help fight wildfires in Washington state.

KING-TV reported the Department of Natural Resources is using \$1.1 million from the state's budget to bring the Huey helicopter back to life.

The helicopter was first built in 1970 and used in Vietnam.

The DNR already has nine former Hueys in its fleet to drop water on fires across the state. The aircraft were given to the DNR free of charge when the Army decommissioned them.

Prison food employee smuggled wedding ring

IN NEW CASTLE — Authorities said a prison food employee who was smitten with an Indiana inmate smuggled a wedding ring behind bars.

Online court records show Rebecca Landers pleaded guilty to trafficking with an inmate, a misdemeanor. A felony charge of official misconduct was dropped. She was jailed for four days before her guilty plea, and won't face any additional time behind bars.

Investigators at the Department of Correction quote Landers, 46, as saying she was in love with Chad Shackelford and planned to have him move in with her when he's released in 2022.

Councilwoman sworn in using a Dr. Seuss book

MO CLAYTON — A newly elected St.



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

The one that didn't get away

Zach Lofquist eyes the pink salmon that he landed Tuesday while shore fishing with dozens of others for the fish, which surge into local waters for just a few weeks every two years in the Puget Sound area in Seattle. The smallest and shortest lived of the five Pacific salmon, pinks are born in the fall in fresh water and make their way to saltwater in spring, swimming north to Alaska before returning home to Seattle-area waters. The number of returning fish is predicted to be especially low this year, and anglers are limited to two fish per day.

Louis County councilwoman was sworn into office using a Dr. Seuss book.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reported that the council doesn't require members to be sworn in on a Bible, and newly elected 2nd District member Kelli Dunaway chose "Oh, the Places You'll Go!"

Her 5-year-old son and 7-year-old daughter held it for her during last week's ceremony.

Officers wear armbands after police dog dies

KS ANDOVER — A Kansas police dog named Thor died just a few weeks before he was to retire.

The Andover Police Department said in a Facebook post that officers will wear black armbands in honor of the Belgian malinois. He had a brief illness and died last weekend, just short of his 10th birthday.

Thor was trained to detect drugs, as well as in tracking and trailing.

Man accused of slitting supervisor's throat

TN NASHVILLE — Authorities allege a Tennessee man sliced his supervisor's throat with a steak knife at work,

THE CENSUS

10K

The approximate number of plastic bricks Lego used in making a look-alike statue honoring Loyola's Sister Jean Dolores Schmidt for her 100th birthday. The statue of the men's basketball chaplain is complete with Loyola colors, striped scarf, glasses and the nun's custom Nike shoes that read "Sister" and "Jean" behind the heels. The statue can be seen through October at the Legoland Discovery Center in Schaumburg, Ill. The sculpture will then be moved to Gentile Arena, the home of Loyola's basketball and volleyball teams.

narrowly avoiding a main artery. News outlets reported John W. Herren, 40, was arrested and charged with attempted criminal homicide.

An affidavit from Ashland City police said Herren was carrying two knives when he walked into his workplace at civil engineering firm Dale & Associates. The report said Herren went behind the supervisor's desk, grabbed the man's head and cut his throat.

Police said the supervisor fled and was taken to Centennial Medical Center to be treated for superficial cuts on his throat.

Defendant throws table during jury selection

NY SYRACUSE — A man facing trial for raping a 74-year-old woman in Syracuse caused bedlam in the courtroom

by throwing a table in the air.

The Post-Standard of Syracuse reported that Shamik King stood up during jury selection, picked up the defense table and threw it. It landed on the prosecution table and sent splinters flying.

No one was injured, but one woman was excused from jury service after an apparent panic attack. Jury selection continued with the 30-year-old defendant absent from the courtroom.

Probe of kids giving Nazi salute to reopen

CA GARDEN GROVE — School officials in Orange County, Calif., said they will reopen an investigation into a group of high school students seen on video giving Nazi salutes last year after more racist images surfaced, according to a report

Wednesday.

The initial video obtained by the Daily Beast shows members of the boys' water polo team at Pacifica High School in an empty room. The video showed about 10 boys in a stiff-arm salute while singing a Nazi marching song.

The Garden Grove Unified School District said administrators had "addressed the situation with all students and families involved," but failed to specify what disciplinary actions it took.

The Los Angeles Times reported that since Monday officials said several other videos showing students engaged in hate speech have surfaced.

Parts of county park unknowingly auctioned

FL FORT LAUDERDALE — Five acres of a Florida county park were unknowingly auctioned last year to a private company, which is threatening to sue if park visitors continue to trespass.

The Sun Sentinel reported that Miami-based Dorado Bells LLC won the bid for \$23,900 for parts of West Lake Park in Hollywood. The parcel is a 15-foot-wide strip that runs nearly 3 miles around a lake.

From wire reports

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Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Department stores join the resale game

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Out with the new and in with the old.

As department stores watch their customers flock to second-hand stores, some are trying to bring them back by partnering with online resale sites.

Last week, J.C. Penney and Macy's announced a pilot program to set aside sections inside a few dozen of their stores for used merchandise sold by ThredUP, James Reinhart, co-founder and CEO of ThredUP, said his company has a similar deal with retailer Stage Stores, which opened 12 resale shops last year for a total of 45.

Neiman Marcus was the first big department store chain to get into the resale business. In April, it bought a minority stake in Fashionphile, an online seller of pre-owned designer accessories. This fall, it will launch shops inside some of its own stores where customers can sell — but not buy — pre-worn designer items to Fashionphile.

Presumably, these customers will take the money from their sales and spend it at Neiman Marcus — or at least that's what the department store is hoping for.

‘This won't be unhelpful, but it won't be transformative.’

Neil Saunders
managing director of GlobalData Retail

The moves mark the most dramatic evidence of how resale is becoming so mainstream that traditional sellers can no longer ignore it. They come as a new generation of shoppers aren't interested in paying full price and also would rather see their clothes worn again by someone else than end up in a landfill.

“You have to go where the customer is going,” Reinhart said of the partnership with Macy's and Penney. “Trying to live in the past is a recipe for disaster.”

Analysts applaud the strategy as a way to drive customers into stores, but they also see it as a desperate attempt that could undermine business.

“It's good that they are looking at modern ways of shopping,” said Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail. “But this is not the solution to their

deep-seated problems. There's a dearth of innovation. They're always playing catch up. This won't be unhelpful, but it won't be transformative.”

Saunders says resale shops could cannibalize other parts of Penney's and Macy's business. At the same time, he and others believe it could further strain the relationship between traditional retailers and their suppliers, who have been financing more of the retailers' marketing expenses as sales falter while also increasingly bearing the costs of price markdowns.

But Jon Reilly, vice president and global commerce strategy lead at Publicis Sapient, believes brands may not mind the new competition from resellers since they need department stores to bring in as much customer traffic as possible.

Although the resale business still accounts for a fraction of the overall retail pie, it's growing exponentially and is also influencing shoppers' habits. Sales of second-hand merchandise are predicted to expand to \$51 billion by 2023 from \$24 billion last year, according to GlobalData PLC, which created a report for ThredUP.

And according to a survey by Boston Consulting Group,

one-third of shoppers queried said they sold items to clean out their wardrobe and finance new purchases.

Shoppers for years have been buying and selling used clothes at thrift shops and on eBay, especially so during the Great Recession. But many of the physical shops were dingy, and it took weeks or even months for consigners to get payment for their goods.

Then a new generation of online second-hand shops like ThredUP as well as names like Poshmark and luxury site The RealReal.com cropped up and flourished because they made the shopping experience easier with new technology and services.

While those businesses have made their mark online, they also see the need to have a physical presence. The RealReal operates three stores — two in New York and one in Los Angeles — while ThredUP operates three stores in the San Francisco area.

Jamie Sabat, director of trends and consumer forecasting at Streetsense, says the physical presence is important because nearly 80% of Gen Z customers — those who are born in the mid-1990s to early 2000s — enjoy going to stores.

Still, there's no guarantee that

second-hand stores will lure young shoppers back into department stores.

Moreover, Toliver, 24, has been shopping for second-hand clothes for at least a decade because she's interested in eco-friendly clothes. She said she hasn't shopped at J.C. Penney or Macy's for years and doesn't expect to now.

“I feel like that would still be putting money in the pocket of those who run fast-fashion and environmentally unfriendly businesses,” she said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 23)	\$1.1371
Dollar buys (Aug. 23)	€0.8794
British pound (Aug. 23)	\$1.26
Japanese yen (Aug. 23)	104.00
South Korean won (Aug. 23)	1,174.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Bahraini)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.2250
Canada (Dollar)	1.3286
China (Yuan)	7.0827
Denmark (Krone)	6.7193
Egypt (Pound)	16.6181
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.1096/0.9012
Hungary (Forint)	7.8394
Israel (Shekel)	2.9545
Japan (Yen)	106.38
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3041
Norway (Krone)	8.9590
Philippines (Peso)	52.38
Poland (Zloty)	3.93
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7518
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3856
South Korea (Won)	1,209.70
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9831
Thailand (Baht)	30.79
Turkey (Lira)	5.7627

Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For non-military currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.25
Discount rate	2.75
Federals funds market rate	1.13
3-month bill	1.93
30-year bond	2.05

EURO CASH PRICES

Country	Super	Euro unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$2.864	\$3.248	\$3.506	\$3.260
Change in price	-2.6 cents	-2.8 cents	-2.5 cents	-1.7 cents
Netherlands	—	\$3.754	\$3.964	\$3.838
Change in price	—	-3.4 cents	-3.6 cents	-3.4 cents
U.K.	—	\$3.182	\$3.440	\$3.194
Change in price	—	-2.8 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.7 cents
Azores	—	—	\$3.427	—
Change in price	—	—	-2.6 cents	—
Belgium	—	\$2.878	\$2.991	\$3.107
Change in price	—	No change	No change	—
Turkey	—	—	\$3.323	\$3.077*
Change in price	—	—	-2.6 cents	-1.7 cents

PACIFIC CASH PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	—	\$3.289	—	\$3.049
Change in price	—	-3.0 cents	—	-2.0 cents
Okhawa	—	\$2.649	—	\$3.049
Change in price	—	-3.0 cents	—	-2.0 cents
South Korea	—	\$2.679	—	\$3.079
Change in price	—	-3.0 cents	—	-2.0 cents
Guam	—	\$2.659**	\$3.049	\$3.299
Change in price	—	-3.0 cents	-2.0 cents	—

* Diesel EPD ** Midgrade
For the week of Aug. 23-29

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 21, 2019

Dow Jones Industrials	240.29
	26,202.73
Nasdaq composite	71.65
	8,020.21
Standard & Poor's 500	23.92
	2,924.43
Russell 2000	11.84
	1,509.85

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

WEEKEND



Another look at ‘Apocalypse Now’

Francis Ford Coppola (again) revisits
his Vietnam War film on its 40th
anniversary with ‘Final Cut’

Q&A with the director, Page 22

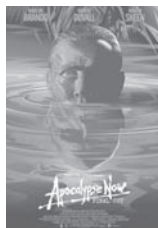
WEEKEND: MOVIES

QA

FRANCIS
FORD
COPPOLA

Method

TO HIS



Famed director
again returns to
'Apocalypse Now'
for what he's
calling his
'final cut'

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

If filmmaking is a war, then "Apocalypse Now" was very nearly Francis Ford Coppola's Waterloo.

The battles Coppola fought while making his 1979 epic nearly destroyed him.

A typhoon wrecked a major set. Harvey Keitel was replaced by Martin Sheen. Coppola searched desperately for an ending. He worked even harder to coax a few lines out of Marlon Brando.

But out of that tumult Coppola created a masterpiece. And 40 years later, "Apocalypse Now" has never looked so good.

Coppola has supervised a 4K restoration of the film and, for the second time, tweaked the cut. Having perhaps gone too far in his 2001 "Redux," which added 53 minutes, "Apocalypse Now Final Cut," which opened in theaters Aug. 15 and will be released on home video Aug. 27, splits the difference at 183 minutes.

In its present and restored form, the majesty and madness of "Apocalypse Now" is more vivid and hallucinatory than ever. Coppola considers it the definitive version. It completes a four-decade journey turning what was almost a mess into the masterpiece he envisioned from the start.

Coppola, 80, has lately been busy with equally audacious plans.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 23

ON THE COVER: Martin Sheen stars as Capt. Willard in "Apocalypse Now Final Cut."

ZOETROPE CORP./AP



Marlon Brando appears in a scene from "Apocalypse Now Final Cut," directed by Francis Ford Coppola.

ZOETROPE CORP./AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES

FROM PAGE 22

In 2017, he published a book, "Live Cinema and its Techniques," about his experiments and hopes for a new art form that combines cinema, television and theater in a live experience. He's also recently returned to a long delayed passion project, "Megalopolis," a sprawling sci-fi, New York-set epic. Coppola has been working on the script and casting, and searching for production partners. "Or maybe now it's at the stage I can do it by myself, I don't know," he said.

In a recent interview, Coppola spoke about "Apocalypse Now" then and now, why he was "terrified" after making it and why he has so much trouble letting go.

AP: You've talked before about the theatrical version of "Apocalypse Now" missing some of the "weirdness" you wanted. What did you mean?

Coppola: In the 1979 version when it first opened, the various people who had sponsored it and were distributing it felt that it was too long and too weird. So we went through a tough few evenings trying to make it shorter and trying to make it appear more normal as opposed to "weird." So we took some things out. Some of them were just 30 seconds long or a minute long but generally we were trying to make it shorter and less weird, which I guess is another word for "surreal." After it was clear the movie had survived — meaning, you never know when you make a movie if its opening is going to be the last you heard of it or it's going to have a life after that — I was looking at it on television and it didn't seem so weird or surreal. It stuck out less as something unusual. For that reason, people kept saying to me, "Maybe you should have put back what you took out."

Did you consciously want to put your stamp on the war movie?

The Vietnam War was different than other American wars. It was a West Coast sensibility rather than an East Coast sensibility. In war movies before "Apocalypse," there was always a sort of Brooklyn character, an East Coast and Midwest personality. In "Apocalypse Now," it was L.A. and it was surfing and it was drugs and it was rock 'n' roll so it was more of a West Coast ambience to the war. In addition, there were many sort of odd contradictions that related to the morality involved. There was a line I once read that's not in the film but to me it sums up the meaning of the movie. It was: "We teach the boys to drop fire on people yet we won't let them write the word 'f---' on their airplanes because it's obscene."

You've gone back and made changes to a number of your films. For you, is a film ever really finished?

The only reason I'm in a position to go back and evaluate some of these decisions is because I own the film, which is the same reason George Lucas looks at some of his movies. Obviously most filmmakers don't own their films and would not be permitted to change a cut. But the version that you open with, you're



Lionsgate

Robert Duvall is pictured in "Apocalypse Now Final Cut." Francis Ford Coppola said "Apocalypse Now" stood out from previous war movies because it was "LA and it was surfing and it was drugs and it was rock 'n' roll so it was more of a West Coast ambience to the war."

very concerned that it will have some longevity. And so you may do things for the opening that you'd rather not do but you don't want to risk a negative reception because a film that opens with a negative reception is dead. If you can get it to be a positive reception or even a qualified positive reception then it has a chance of surviving. If you look at all the films I made, only "The Godfather" was just a runaway creative hit. Most of the other films were highly qualified and that meant that I was trying to nurse them into persisting and surviving. Later on, since I own them, I very often decided to undo things that were pushed on me by distributors or people at the time, and do what I wanted to do.

Eleanor Coppola, your wife, wrote in her "Notes" that you took on some of Kurtz's megalomania while making "Apocalypse Now."

Whenever I made a movie, I was always personally compared to the main character. When I was doing "The Godfather," I was Michael Corleone, Machiavellian and sly. When I made "Apocalypse Now," I was the megalomaniac. When I made "Tucker," I was the innovative entrepreneur. The truth of the matter is all my life if I have been anything I've been enthusiastic and imaginative. I don't have talent that I wish I had. My talent was more enthusiasm and imagination and a kind of present sense, a sense of knowing what's going to happen before it happens. Other than that, my talent is limited.

A recent Film Comment essay lamented the film's portrayal of the Vietnam as "a spectacular but soulless backdrop."

It would have been interesting and good if the movie had been made in Vietnam. But the truth of the matter is when we were making "Apocalypse Now," the Vietnamese War was only winding down. We did not have access to going there. We were making it in the Philippines and although we did have some Vietnamese people with us, it wasn't the same as making it in Vietnam, which



ZOETROPE CORP./AP

Coppola, who previously tweaked his 1979 film by adding 53 minutes in 2001's "Apocalypse Now Redux," said "Apocalypse Now Final Cut" is the definitive version of the movie.

would have made it possible to give an impression of the Vietnamese people, who I have only the highest regard for: When you make a war film, it's from one side, unless it's "Tora! Tora! Tora!" and you're deliberately deciding to depict both sides equally. This film was specifically about these young California Americans participating in this war, and that was the lens this film was made through.

Did you emerge from "Apocalypse Now" a different filmmaker?

Yeah, but no more than I was after the extreme experience of the "Godfather" movie. Every film I have made has been a new sheet of paper. I rarely would repeat a style. Every movie I worked on, I came out of it being a different person.

How did you feel after "Apocalypse Now"?

I was terrified. For one thing, I was on the hook for the whole budget personally — that's why I came to own it. In addition, in those days interest was over 25%, 27%. So it looked as though, especially given the controversy and all the bogus articles being written about a movie that no one

knew anything about but were predicting it was "the heralded mess" of that year, it looked as though I was never going to get out of the jeopardy I was in. I had kids, I was young. I had no family fortune behind me. I was scared stiff. It was no different after "Godfather." "Godfather" was a project I was constantly about to be fired from, that the studio hated what I was doing looked like. I didn't think I was going to survive that. All of those movies, which were these monumental attempts at art, left me in a different place when I finished than when I started. But then it was followed by another one that was a similar challenge. I'm 80 now but from age 25 to 60, my life was one crisis after another.

Do you think you thrive in that kind of tumultuous environment?

When you attempt something that you don't exactly know how to do but you still long to attempt it, you're setting the stage for a certain style and struggle in life. Clearly if after I made the gangster movie that was successful, if I had just spent my entire career making gangster pictures, that would have been a more tranquil

life. I wanted to learn. I realize now that one of my fundamental aspirations is learning. There's nothing more pleasurable than learning something you don't know how to do.

Is going back to your films to get them just right for you part of preserving your legacy? Do you think about how you want you and your work to be remembered?

I'm not so crazy about my legacy. I want people to know that I liked little kids and I was a good camp counselor when I was a camp counselor in 1957, that I have a family with wonderful children that I find so fascinating and very talented. But ultimately, to me, the greatest legacy you can have is that someone somewhere saw one of the things you did and it inspired them to do something that then inspired someone else in the future. In a way, it's a form of immortality.

Today, most directors seeking the scale of "Apocalypse Now" would likely only find it in a superhero film. Do you sympathize with them?

Absolutely. I feel now we have this bifurcated cinema in our country being of independent films where we have the most wonderful wealth of talent and then the industry films which are pretty much superhero films. One has too much money — the studio, Marvel comic-type movies. They're basically making the same movie over and over again, and seducing all of the talent. Everyone is hoping to get a small part in one of those movies because that's where the money is. And as opposed to the wonderful, unusual, exotic, interesting, provocative and beautiful independent films have no money. The budget for the craft service of one of those superhero films could more than be a budget for some of these brilliant young — and not only young — filmmakers. That is a tragedy.

The long list of your films have had can lead to strange places. Prosecutors want to show "The Godfather II" during Roger Stone's trial. Donald Trump has cited it as one of his favorite films.

The list of fans of the "Godfather" films not only includes the gentleman you speak of but also Saddam Hussein and Gaddafi. Just to go through all of the toughest dictators in the modern world and their favorite movie is "The Godfather."

What do you make of that?

Because "The Godfather" is an American story of an immigrant family that ultimately finds success in America. Success is not a bad thing but it depends on how you define it. If you define success as wealth, influence, power and fame, you have to know that does not bring happiness. We could go through the famous top 1% who have all the things we just mentioned and you'll find some of the most unhappy people on Earth. What brings happiness is friendship, learning, creativity. We know what brings happiness. But what are you going to do when every nation in the world is pointing its main objective toward something that does not add up?

WEEKEND: MOVIE REVIEWS



A bride's wedding night takes a sinister turn when her eccentric new-in-laws force her to take part in a terrifying game in "Ready or Not," starring Samara Weaving.

Fox Searchlight Picture on/MP

A well-plotted mix of humor and gore in 'Ready or Not'

By MARK KENNEDY
Associated Press

Traditionally, weddings usually lead to some fun and games in the bedroom for the happy and exhausted couple. In the new horror-thriller "Ready or Not," that's definitely true — but the games aren't always fun. Samara Weaving has a breakout performance as a new bride who tries to stay alive until dawn after her wedding day as her in-laws hunt her down and try to kill her. It's a well-plotted film that excellently mixes gore and humor while also offering some social commentary by torching the clueless rich.

Weaving plays Grace, a foster kid who yearns for family, who marries Alex Le Domas, the son of a wealthy family that built its fortune on games. Whenever a new member tries to join the clan, they have a "weird family ritual" — they play a game. Sometimes it's checkers or Old Maid. Sometimes it's hunt-down-the-newcomer.

This last possibility is not exactly well communicated by her betrothed, played by Mark O'Brien. "It's not too late to flee, you know," he tells her. She replies, but without knowing the full consequences: "No, thank you. I'm all the way in." Grace then, unfortunately, picks the most dangerous game of all.

But this time, the Le Domas family has found a worthy challenger. Grace can't go quietly, ripping her wedding dress so she can be more mobile — a nod to Uma Thurman's angry bride in "Kill Bill" — ditching her heels for a pair of Converse high tops and fighting back.

"Ready or Not" has a script by Guy Busick and

R. Christopher Murphy, and is directed by Matt Bettinelli-Olpin and Tyler Gillett.

The filmmakers have a fun time chasing the bride and an ever-exasperated family — which includes a deliciously nasty Andie MacDowell as well as Kristian Bruun, Melanie Scrofano, Henry Czerny, Nicky Guadagni, Adam Brody and Elyse Levesque — but they also have time for some digs at the hypocritical ultra-wealthy.

The Le Domas servants are the first to meet their demise, mowed down by accident by the drug- or drink-addled aristocrats. "Why does this always happen to me?" one rich in-law wails after her crossbow shoots an arrow into a maid's skull.

A portrait emerges of a family desperate to hold onto its exclusivity and privilege, even to the point of murder. "It's true what they say. The rich really are different," one of them explains. They may wear dinner jackets to eat but they're truly savage.

Weaving, the niece of Hugo Weaving ("Lord of the Rings," "The Matrix"), has a comfort with horror — she's been in the series "Ash vs Evil Dead" and "The Babysitter" — but absolutely shines in this tricky role. She's vulnerable, deadpan funny, scared and resolute, turning a role that could have been one-dimensional into something vibrant and authentic.

Toward the end, she seems to draw on such wells of anger and fury that she makes haunting animal noises. If this actress — probably best known for a memorable turn in "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" — often gets confused with Margot Robbie, a few more roles like this and that may end. She's murderously good.

"Ready or Not" is rated R for violence, bloody images, language and some drug use. Running time: 95 minutes.



Lionsgate

Secret Service Agent Mike Banning (Gerard Butler, left) is framed for the attempted assassination of the president (Morgan Freeman, right) and must evade his own agency and the FBI as he tries to uncover the real threat in "Angel Has Fallen."

Somber 'Angel Has Fallen' brings change to franchise

By KATIE WALSH
Tribune News Service

The Has Fallen series, "Olympus," "London" and now, "Angel Has Fallen," is a curiously enduring franchise. But it seems the character of Mike Banning, a foul-mouthed Secret Service agent played with a lumpy gruffness by Gerard Butler, has filled the void of the everyman action hero, displaced by those with superpowers and elegant martial arts skills. Mike's just a guy with a wife and kid who happens to be incredibly enthusiastic about stabbing people. And if there's one thing we've learned in this series, it's always bring Mike to a knife fight.

In the Has Fallen mythology, Mike has become a cipher, a character around which a filmmaker can project the paranoid political fantasy of the week. Antoine Fuqua threw him into "The Hard in the White House" against North Korea in "Olympus," while Babak Najafi plunked him into an international terrorist attack by a nefarious Middle Eastern group in "London." So naturally, the only place to go is home. "Angel" director and co-writer Ric Roman Waugh plucks Mike into his own "Three Days of the Condor," a conspiracy thriller in which the U.S. government has turned on him.

This time, it's our hero who has fallen, the "guardian angel" to President Trumbull (Morgan Freeman), the only returning costar. After a drone attack on the president during a fishing trip, Banning wakes up cuffed to a hospital bed, framed to take the fall for the hit. Indicted and imprisoned, then kidnapped by the very mercenaries who did try to kill the president, Banning has no choice but to go rogue (as per usual).

The tone of "Angel" is far more somber than the wise-cracking "Olympus" or the frothing, jingoistic "London." The weight makes the film strangely dull at times. (How can a scene of But-

ler crashing a big rig into a tree be so flat?) But some moments in this outsized take on "The Fugitive" hit a real nerve, such as a shootout in an office building where young bearded white men in tactical gear pump thousands of rounds into drywall and office furniture. Banning is our fantasy for those very real scenarios: a strong, resourceful, yet exceedingly normal man of action.

Waugh brings a chaotic, vertiginous style to "Angel," potentially the best-looking of all the films, though it's still riddled with unfortunately sketchy green screen. The director asserts Banning's relatability and his vulnerability visually. He places the audience within Mike's subjectivity during the action scenes, looking down the barrel of his gun as if in a first-person shooter game, the sound dropping out to a muffled hum whenever he gets his bell rung.

What's truly daring, however, is that Waugh, with co-writers Robert Mark Kamen and Matt Cook, actually address all the brain injuries Mike must have suffered in the gleefully unhinged splatterfests of the first two films. He's been scanning doctors for pain pills and even admits he's got a lot to address, personally (but in, you know, a very tough, masculine way). Mike Banning going to therapy? The mind reels.

At the heart of the Has Fallen franchise is the affection between men, and Butler has always shared the best chemistry with his male costars. That spark in "Angel" comes from Butler's scenes with Nick Nolte, as his father, Clay, a veteran living off the grid. It's Clay's older, wiser perspective that pushes Banning to take stock of his life. And surprisingly, the tough guy is willing to grow and change, along with the franchise itself, even if it is as goofy and violent as it always has been.

"Angel Has Fallen" is rated R for violence and language throughout. Running time: 120 minutes.

'Overcomer'

After reluctantly agreeing to coach cross-country, John (Alex Kendrick, left) meets Hannah (Aryn Wright-Thompson, right), an aspiring athlete who's pushing her limits on a journey toward discovery in "Overcomer." A review of the Christian drama was not available at press time. The film is rated PG. Running time: 119 minutes.



Sony Pictures

WEEKEND: POP CULTURE



F•R•I•E•N•D•S

Celebrate 25th anniversary of show's premiere with tie-in merchandise

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

See your "Friends" on the big screen. Deck out your place with "Friends" decor. Wear your "Friends" as jewelry. Heck, buy the "Friends" Lego set and pretend it's for your kid. If you're a "Friends" superfan, there are lots of ways to celebrate the show's 25th anniversary in September.

"It transcends generations," Maryellen Zarakas, a Warner Bros. senior vice president, said of the show that ended in 2004 after 10 seasons. "Everybody still goes through growing up into your 20s when you get your first job, your first heartbreak, your first time your friends really become your family."

The studio has partnered with a range of companies to celebrate the quarter-century mark. Here's a look at some of the fun.

The pop-ups

In New York, tickets sold out in two hours for "The One with the Pop-Up" immersive experience in Manhattan. The monthlong pop-up opens Sept. 7 and runs through Oct. 6. It includes Central Perk, props for photos, and some of the iconic looks for Ross, Rachel, Joey, Monica, Chandler and Phoebe.

"It's for the ultimate 'Friends' fan," Zarakas said. "You can peek through Rachel and Monica's very famous purple door. You can relax on Chandler and Joey's recliner." Lines have been around the corner for the Central Perk pop-up in Santa Monica, Calif. The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf created a 'gram-worthy "Friends" experience, orange couch included. There's memorabilia from the sitcom and specialty drinks named for its cast: The Rachel Matcha Latte, The Joey Mango Cold Brew Tea and The Phoebe Cookies & Cream Ice Blend among them. The Coffee Bean did the same pop-up in West Hollywood.



The Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf/AP

The Fathom event

Fans broke Fathom Events' website, for about 15 minutes anyway, when tickets went on sale for three days of movie house screenings of popular episodes. A dozen episodes are hitting theaters Sept. 23, 28 and Oct. 2. Each night includes four "Friends" episodes that have been newly remastered in 4K from the original 35mm camera negatives. There also will be never-before-seen extras.

"It's those really iconic moments that people want to see over and over again," Zarakas said. "That's how the Fathom Event came about."

Tom Lucas, a Fathom vice president, said the idea was to "allow a group of friends, for lack of a better word, go together and enjoy it on the big screen."

Fathom has more than 1,400 theaters on board. That amounts to well over 200,000 seats available each night, making it the largest Fathom Event ever, Lucas said.

The bling

The moments, the one-liners, the memories. You can have them all in accessories from the eco-conscious Alex and Ani. The brand has created a seven-piece "Friends" capsule line of mostly charm bracelets to mark the anniversary.

Choose from a "pivot, pivot, pivot" theme, one with a lobster and "you're my lobster" charms or Joey's "how you doin'?" line, among others. The Central Perk logo, the famous picture frame and the "Friends" logo bar are also available. Prices range from \$39 to \$49 on Alexanderdani.com.

"This married really nicely with the show," Zarakas said. "It's a wink and a nod."

The decor

Pottery Barn takes a turn at "Friends" merch with everything from mugs to tea towels and a reissue of the famous apothecary coffee table that Rachel tried to pass off as flea market to roommate Phoebe, who was not a Pottery Barn fan.

The Season 6 episode was aptly named "The One with the Apothecary Table." The collection also includes throw pillows adorned with Monica's purple apartment door, the tufted Central Perk couch and classic quotes like "Joey Doesn't Share Food."

Pottery Barn photos



Pottery Barn even threw in wall art memorializing the show's theme song and a doormat with the series' logo. Shop online at PotteryBarn.com but beware, some items have already sold out.



Lego/AP

The Legos

Is your brick building stuck in second gear? Maybe a Central Perk set will help. It goes on sale Sept. 1 for \$59.99 at Lego stores and on Lego.com.

The collectible set recreates the gang's coffee shop and comes with figures of the six buddies, plus Gunther. There's a seating area, including — YES — the couch, an armchair and two other chairs.

Builders can construct the stage where Phoebe performed with her guitar. There's a brick-built coffee machine, walls, a window with the Central Perk logo, TV studio light rigs, coffee mugs and the familiar low coffee table.

Lego designer Aymeric Fievet submitted the concept through the Lego Ideas platform, a way for brick fans to weigh in on new projects.

"It's the fans who really wanted to do a 'Friends' set," Zarakas said. "When we heard about that we were, of course, all in."

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES



A GAME OF SISTERHOOD

Team up with a friend or play solo in 1st modern co-op Wolfenstein adventure

By CHRISTOPHER BYRD

Special to The Washington Post

In 2014, the Swedish development studio MachineGames pulled off one of the more distinguished revamps of this video game generation: Wolfenstein: The New Order injected fresh life into a series that kick-started the first-person shooter genre in the 1990s by combining the twitch combat that players expect with the kind of pensive writing one might find in a high-toned war movie. 2017's wonderful Wolfenstein II: The New Colossus tweaked the formula by relaxing the difficulty curve of The New Order and doubling down on the narrative moments that provide excellent contrast to the Nazi-killing action which is a hallmark of the series.

Picking up 20 years after the events of the last game, Wolfenstein: Youngblood stars the twin daughters of the series hero, B.J. Blazkiewicz, who take the fight against the Nazis to the streets of Paris. A few cutscenes notwithstanding, Youngblood (which was co-developed by Arkane Studios) doesn't have the

number of arresting narratives as The New Colossus. But, in a series first, its campaign is organized around co-op gameplay. This addition, while diverting, is not particularly rousing. Like so many big-budget video games, it's nothing more than a safe bet.

The game opens with a quiet and effective scene set near Mesquite, Texas, in 1979. It shows Blazkiewicz and his wife, Anya, rigorously training their young adult daughters, Jess and Soph, in the art of combat. The parents' concern for their children is obvious as is the siblings' affection for each other. The scene then cuts to the following year where, in Paris, Jess and Soph meet up with members of the French resistance.

The girls are looking for their father who mysteriously vanished but left behind clues that he'd traveled to the City of Lights on a secret mission. In exchange for helping to track down their father, the twins agree to run missions for the resistance against the Nazis. These assignments take them from a Zepplin that serves as a casino to various locations scattered around the game's re-creation of Paris.

Over the length of the game players will cross and recross many of the same areas and visit some sights, like a Nazi interrogation center, on different missions. Such backtracking didn't grate much on me or my co-op partner because we had a decent time chit-chatting and shooting Nazis. We both found the girls' sisterly camaraderie — their fist-bumps, dancing in elevators, and banter — bemusing, if a bit childish. If there was one design element that my friend and I singled out for commendation, it's the game's pep system. Pressing up on the control pad allows the sisters to rally each other with an encouraging word and a physical gesture, like a thumbs up. This system adds nicely to an atmosphere of mutual reliance.

Different peeps can be purchased with the in-game currency. Once my friend and I saved up for a pep that replenishes full health and body armor we delighted even more in the tempo of the game. Although we never had too much trouble advancing through levels, we hit a couple of bottlenecks with the first two of the game's five bosses. The first boss frustrated us because his regenerating health made us feel that we weren't getting anywhere by shooting at him. But after consulting YouTube we realized that we just had to wear him down to trigger a scripted cutscene. After that fight I worried that Youngblood might have the sort of bullet-sponge bosses that vexed me in The New Order. The second boss seemed to confirm this after he repeatedly wiped us out the first day we faced him.

Fortunately, any apprehensions I had were allayed after my friend and I decided to complete as many side-missions as possible to level up our characters. Once we accumulated enough experience points to unlock upgrades for our weapons, we noticed a night-and-day difference when we revisited the second boss. We had little trouble getting past the next two bosses which we steamrolled on our first attempt. But the final boss was a worthy opponent that took us several attempts to squish.

Wolfenstein: Youngblood provides a decent co-op experience for friends to indulge in. It's like going to a place where you know the service is fine and you wouldn't look for anything unusual.

Platforms: PlayStation 4, Xbox One, Nintendo Switch, PC

Online: bethesda.net/en/game/wolfenstein-youngblood



B.J. Blazkiewicz has disappeared after a mission into Nazi-occupied Paris. Now, after years of training and guidance from their battle-hardened father, B.J.'s twin daughters, Jess and Soph, set out to find him in Wolfenstein: Youngblood.

Bethesda Softworks photos



WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe



Honoring the fallen

Cambridge American Cemetery is a good place to connect with people and history



PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS/Stars and Stripes

Visitors walk past the reflection pool at the Cambridge American Cemetery.

BY CHRISTOPHER DENNIS
Stars and Stripes

It drew my curiosity partly because it reminded me of Arlington National Cemetery, and history, especially from World War II, always intrigues me. Cambridge American Cemetery is one of two U.S. military cemeteries in Britain and is part of the American Battle Monuments Commission.

The grounds are laid out in a quarter-circle wedge with the entrance, visitor center and flagpole at the narrow-ended tip. Marble white crosses and Star of David markers are spread out on the cut grass across the hillside, which offers a view of distant towns and the English countryside. The church bells from the local village of Coton can be heard across the field.

To the right, as you enter, you'll see the Walls of the Missing, the reflecting pool and the memorial chapel. Going left will lead you on a path to the visitor center, which contains pictures, interactive movies from World War II and memorabilia from the era, such as magazines and aircraft propellers.

The land was donated in 1943 by the University of Cambridge, with the first servicemember interred in the new cemetery on Dec. 7, 1943.

The grounds once held the graves of 10,000



More than 5,000 names are recorded on the cemetery's Walls of the Missing.

servicemen. But after families were given the choice of repatriating their relatives, most were returned to the U.S. The cemetery now holds 3,811 graves, with another 5,127 names etched into the Walls of the Missing for those who were never recovered.

The majority of servicemen laid to rest here are from the Battle of the Atlantic, in which about 3,500 merchant ships and 175 Allied warships were sunk. Most of the other casualties are from the strategic air bombardment of Europe, when the U.S. joined Britain in the air war.

Some notable names at the cemetery are the crew of the USS *Reuben James*, the first American warship sunk in European waters, and Joseph P. Kennedy Jr., brother of the late President John F. Kennedy. The big band musician and composer Glenn Miller, who vanished in an aircraft flying from England to France to entertain troops, is listed on the Walls of the Missing.

While walking around the visitor center,

I met an English couple who said they had come to the cemetery after visiting Cambridge.

Rowland Blake, 74, from the town of Wymondham which had housed the 389th Bomber Group at RAF Hethel, said he kept coming because the cemetery represented a connection to his parents' generation.

He shared stories from them, about how U.S. bombers would light flares as they approached the base to indicate the number of injured on board, so the ambulances would be ready.

Or how when he was 8 years old, his father pointed out a low-flying Constellation troop transport that was having mechanical problems. It executed a successful emergency landing at the nearby air base because the navigator remembered the town's unique double-towered abbey from his service there during the war, Blake said.

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ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Cambridge American Cemetery is situated three miles west of Cambridge. Travel north from London on the motorway M11. Leave at junction 13 and turn left onto road A1303. GPS coordinates are N52 13.020 E0 03.320. Address: Madingley Road, Coton, CB23 7PH, Cambridge

TIMES

The cemetery and visitor center are open to the public daily and on most host-country public holidays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cemetery is closed on Dec. 25 and Jan. 1.

COSTS

Free. The cemetery, visitor center and car park are fully wheelchair-accessible.

INFORMATION

Phone: +44 (0)1954 210 350
Website: abmc.gov/cemeteries-memorials/europe/cambridge-american-cemetery

— Christopher Dennis

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Remote rewards of Scotland's Orkney Islands

On a recent trip to Great Britain, I decided at the last minute to snip two days off from my time in London and go somewhere I've never been before: the Orkney Islands. Perched just an hour's ferry ride north of the Scottish mainland, these islands are remote, historic, and — for the right traveler — well worth the effort.

Orkney has two draws unmatched elsewhere in Scotland: some of the finest prehistoric sites in northern Europe, and a harbor with fascinating remnants of both World Wars.

I flew into a tiny slingshot of an airport in the only sizable town, Kirkwall. My first evening, I wandered down to the town's cathedral and happened upon a stirring band of pipers and drummers. I watched as little local kids splashed in a cultural puddle created by the band, the wail of the pipes, the towering stony church and adoring townsfolk ... and I could almost see them absorbing into their DNA what it means to be "Orkadian" (as locals are called).

With no real tradition for clans or tartans, Orkney feels not "Highlander" or even "Scottish," but uniquely Orcadian. Though Orkney was inhabited by Picts from the sixth century BC, during most of its formative history — from 875 until 1468 — it was a prized trading hub of the Norwegian realm, giving it a feel more Scandinavian than Celtic.

The next day I traveled to the west coast, where I explored the Neolithic village of Skara Brae — and as the wind blew across the bluff, I understood why those early locals lived like moles in underground stone settlements. Orkney is blanketed with the remains of Neolithic communities where subterranean homes were connected by tunnels and lit only by

whale-oil lamps. Standing there on that desolate bluff, all alone with these ruins, I marveled at how all of this was accomplished without the use of metal tools.

A short drive away is Maeshowe — the finest chambered tomb north of the Alps, built around 3500 BC. From the outside, it looks like yet another big mound.

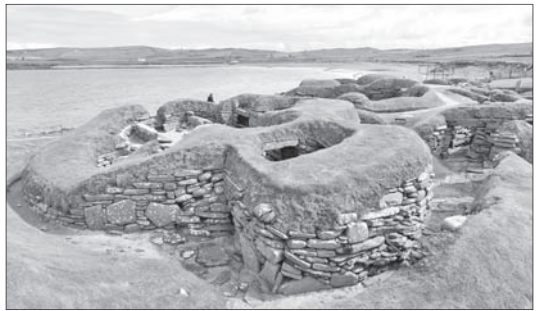
But inside, the burial chamber is remarkably intact. Crouching down to squeeze through the entry passage, I kept thinking about how, for 5,000 years, people have lowered their heads to enter this sacred space. At the winter solstice, the setting sun shines through the entry tunnel, illuminating the entrance to the main cell. How prehistoric people managed to build this still puzzles present-day engineers.

Orkney's arc of scattered islands forms one of the world's largest natural harbors, called Scapa Flow, which was used by Britain's Royal Navy during wartime. During World War I, dozens of old ships and fishing vessels were intentionally sunk to block the gaps between the islets that define Scapa Flow. You can still see many of these "block ships" breaching the surface today.

At the end of World War I, a fleet of 74 captured German ships was anchored here. Barely over a century ago — just before the Treaty of Versailles was formally enacted — the British admiral took most of his ships out on a "victory lap" patrol. Once they were gone, the German



Rick Stevens



CAMERON HEWITT/rickstevens.com

Orkney's ancient ruins include these 5,000-year-old homes at Skara Brae.

commander ordered his men to scuttle the entire fleet, rather than turn it over. The interned ships had not actually surrendered, so there were no British soldiers on board. When the British returned, 52 German ships littered the bottom of the bay. While most of the ships were later salvaged for scrap, to this day, German crockery washes up on Orkney beaches after a storm.

Perched on a little rise above this harbor is Orkney's most fascinating WWII site: the Italian Chapel. Italian POWs imprisoned here were allowed to create a Catholic chapel to remind them of their homeland. While the front view is a pretty Neo-Baroque facade, if you circle around you'll see that the core of the structure is two prefab huts (similar to Quonset huts).

Inside, you can see the remarkable craftsmanship of the artists who decorated the church.

Even on a short visit, Orkney can be alluring for travelers seeking a contrast to the rest of Scotland. The islands' claims to fame — astonishing prehistoric sites, Old Norse heritage and recent history as a WWI and WWII naval base — combine to spur travelers' imaginations. When all else is equal, it's always fun to try something entirely new. I've been exploring Europe all my life ... and as my visit here proves, it offers endless amazing places to uncover.

Rick Stevens (www.rickstevens.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@rickstevens.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Pforzheim celebrates wine

With its longstanding association with the jewelry and watchmaking industries, Germany's Pforzheim is nicknamed the Gold City. But it's the gold in the glass that will be drawing the crowds through Sept. 8, as the city hosts its annual homage to local wines, the Oechslefest.

The festival takes its name from Pforzheim's native son, Christian Ferdinand Oechsle, developer of the scale used in Germany to determine the ripeness and potential alcoholic content of the juice of the grapes used for winemaking. The fest wins hearts over with its prettily decorated booths, varied musical program and wide range of culinary specialties from the region. Some 200 wines from Baden-Wuerttemberg are offered here, among them the Oechsle golds, roses and red produced expressly for consumption at the fest.

Pforzheim is located about 30 miles west of Stuttgart and is easily reached by means of a half-hour train ride from there. The festival on the Marktplatz opens at 11 a.m. daily and runs until 11 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. On several days of the fest, festi-



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

ties have a particular theme and soundtrack; these include a '90s music theme on Aug. 24; Latin, soul and reggae Aug. 29; a dirndl evening Aug. 31; and Oktoberfest-style music Sept. 6. Online: tinyurl.com/y2pq32gf

Explore the German Wine Road by bike

A gorgeous 50-mile stretch of sweeping vineyards and villages, each more adorable than the last, becomes the world's longest wine festival on Aug. 25, the day of the annual "Erlebnistag Deutsche Weinstrasse," or German Wine Road Adventure Day.

On what's one of the best days of the year to experience the beauty and bounty of the

Pfalz wine region, the main road linking up the towns and villages along the route is closed to motorized vehicles as cyclists and hikers turn out in force to ride as much or as little of the route as they care to take on. Ambitious riders will be rewarded with countless panoramic views, while those who prefer to punctuate their pedaling with frequent stops can refuel with regional specialties and the tasty wines for which the region is known. Live music on stage gives riders another reason to stop and stay a while.

The road closure of the highway between the towns of Bockenheim in the north and Schweigen-Rechtenbach in the south lasts from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Those in the Kaiserslautern area can easily reach Neustadt a.d. Weinstraße with bikes in tow by train and from there head north or south along the route. Additional trains are planned to accommodate the influx of riders. Online: erlebnistag-deutsche-weinstrasse.de

Medieval festival in Speyer

An assortment of activities and shows designed to immerse visitors into 13th-century European life takes place in the picturesque Domgarten behind



Pfalz Marketing

Cyclists, hikers and skaters can enjoy 50 miles of road closed to motorized vehicles on German Wine Road Adventure Day.

Speyer's mighty cathedral Aug. 24-25, as the city's annual Medieval Festival plays out.

Things to explore here include a medieval market with more than 100 stalls, encampments for knights, wild hordes and robbers, a fire show, musical performances and a program for young audiences. Among the more action-packed spectacles are knights' battles in which armored combatants duel with a variety of weaponry. The knights

are portrayed by a professional stunt team.

The festival runs 11 a.m.-midnight on Saturday and 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Entry on Saturday costs 40 euros for adults and 18 euros for those ages 6-15; on Sunday, family day, adults pay 15 euros and others enter for free. This festival offers no particular discounts for those who come dressed in medieval garb. Online: spectaculum.de/termine/speyer.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY MARTIN EGNASH/Stars and Stripes

Crispy duck from The Chinese in Grafenwoehr, Germany, contains large chunks of juicy duck breast.

The good, the bad and the plum wine

BY MARTIN EGNASH
Stars and Stripes

Maybe you live on base. Maybe you find yourself on a training exercise in Grafenwoehr, Germany, and you're staying in one of the rotational barracks. Or maybe you just don't feel like traveling far. The fact is, your options are pretty limited here.

One of the few places that will deliver on base and the surrounding areas is The Chinese. I'm not going to lie to you and say this is the greatest Chinese place ever. But it's one of the few options you've got.

So, if you're in Grafenwoehr for any amount of time, you're probably going to order from this place at some point, whether you like it or not.

Do so wisely. First off, I would always have them deliver, rather than going to the restaurant. They seem to place way more emphasis on delivery than on their in-house customers, and you might find yourself waiting a while there, watching numerous meals being cooked and delivered before you get your food. So, stay home for this one.

Plus, they will deliver you beer, so there's that. The peanut sauce on the dishes that come with it, like the crispy chicken with coconut and peanut sauce or the sesame chicken with peanut sauce, is so thick that it's more like peanut butter than a peanut satay-type sauce.

I know people that are totally into this, and sometimes, when I'm feeling chicken with peanut butter, I consider it. But do not



Your delivery order from The Chinese may or may not come with a free bottle of plum wine.

expect some spicy Thai peanut sauce or anything like that. The General Tso's chicken is also different than I expected. While not bad, it just tastes more like sweet and sour chicken to me than the spiciness I normally associate with this dish. Really, it is pretty good, though. You'll just have to douse it with your own hot sauce if you want it to be really spicy.

The duck, however, is pretty good. You get large chunks of juicy duck breast on all the duck dishes. I prefer the duck with broccoli, but the sweet and sour duck with pineapple is also a good choice.

The stir-fried rice is OK. But I think the fried noodles are significantly better. Especially the combination fried noodles, which has chicken, duck, beef and shrimp all mixed together with vegetables and noodles. It's quite tasty, and ridiculously filling.

I'm not a huge fan of the spring rolls. They just don't have a lot going on. They're little fried rolls with indistinguishable ingredients on the inside. I think the egg rolls have a little more to them,



AFTER
HOURS
GERMANY

including more flavor.

The Chinese tosses in a free bottle of plum wine on delivery orders sometimes. I'm not sure when, because I've ordered the same thing twice and only got the plum wine once. So maybe you'll get it, maybe you won't. I wouldn't be too bummed out if you don't get it, though. I'm just not a plum wine guy. Is anybody? My overall opinion of The Chinese is mixed — like my fried noodles. Nothing stands out as amazing. But nothing is really bad. I think given enough time in Grafenwoehr, I'm going to keep going back to it.

egnash.martin@stripes.com
Twitter: @Marty_Stripes

THE CHINESE

Address: Neue Amberger Str. 40, 92655 Grafenwoehr
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Drinks: Soft drinks, beer and plum wine
Food: Chinese food
Prices: Around \$10 per meal
Dress: Casual

— Martin Egnash

Try these wines when temps soar

By ELIN MCCOY
Bloomberg

It's hot, so hot the hazy air seems to shimmer above your friend's poolside patio. Why did you agree to come to this sweltering late afternoon barbecue? You're dying for a crackling, cool drink. But when the thermometer tops 100F, a cocktail, maybe; beer, sure; but wine is probably the last thing on your mind.

I'm here to change that. In the past six weeks, as I suffered heat waves in Paris, Bordeaux, New York, and on my own deck in Connecticut, where I couldn't go barefoot because the wood was scorching to stand on, I've given plenty of thought to which wines are ideal in hot weather.

The requirements for a heatwave-ready wine are dead simple: high acidity and low alcohol, preferably well below 12.5%.

Higher alcohol literally makes you feel hotter, and the air's heat makes the alcohol in the wine seem even more obvious. Big, rich wines with low acidity make you feel sluggish and sleepy, while citrusy, high-acid examples have the kind of liveliness and refreshment you get from tart lemonade. Super light, crisp whites or roses with zing will do. Also, a third rule: Avoid wines aged in oak because they taste heavy and listless in the heat.

My all-time perfect hot-weather wine is Spain's txakoli (pronounced CHOCK-oh-lee, and also called txakolina), from vineyards that hug the cool, rainy Basque country coast not far from San Sebastian. Wine lovers can't get enough of this slightly fizzy wine in August.

Txakoli has a kinship with the region's pristine beaches, where surfers ride awesome waves. It's the local white, made primarily from hondarabi zuri and hondarabi beltza grapes grown on bluffs overlooking the Atlantic, and it's always light, cool, tangy, citrusy, salty and lightly spritzy, like ocean spray. The wines usually clock in at about 10.5% alcohol. (For comparison, think of all those big powerful Napa cabs that boast nearly 15% or more.)

A half-dozen other whites — Portugal's Vinho Verde, German Rieslings, moscholfiori d'Arce, Alpinas, Rieses, Muscadet — also qualify as thirst quenchers on hot, hot days, as do tangy roses, although some have more alcohol than you'd expect.

As for a red? It has to be light-bodied and fruity, with low alcohol and very little tannin. Thick-textured tannic reds taste metallic when served cold. Look for Italian reds from schiava, lagrein and frappato grapes.

The following 11 wines are fantastic when chilled and have enough aroma and flavor to

star in a spritzer. Best of all: They're delicious, even when you're not sweating.

2018 Txomin Etxaniz Getariako Txakolina. Citrusy, spicy and juicy, this widely available white (10.5% alcohol) has floral and mineral aromas, as well as bright lime zest and green apple flavors.

2018 Ameztoi Getariako Txakolina. Deliciously herbal, this txakoli has fresh aromas of mint and a spicy, soft effervescence. Its 10.5% body has a wonderful freshness. (Also check out Ameztoi's fruity rose txakoli, Rubentis.)

2017 Selbach-Oster Riesling Kabinett. Just about any riesling Kabinett from Germany's Mosel Valley will brighten your August. This one is slightly off-dry, with honeysuckle and slate aromas, crackling lime-like acidity, and just 9.5% alcohol.

2018 Weingut Faust Ebling. This easy-going, refreshing, super-dry-as-martini German white is made from the historic ebling grape. Few producers are still making it. It has 10.5% alcohol and is available in one-liter bottles.

2017 Domaine des Ardousses Argile Blanc. The Alpine white, a hot seller in the Hamptons, comes from an incredibly steep vineyard in the shadow of Mont Blanc, tastes like a crystalline stream from a melting glacier, and has 11% alcohol.

2018 Aphros Ten Loureiro Vinho Verde. The name comes from the idea of being fermented to 10% alcohol. It's the lightest, freshest, most gulp-able wine from Vasco Croft, one of the pioneers of biodynamic farming and winemaking in Portugal.

2018 Niepoort Docil Loureiro Vinho Verde. White flowers, citrus and mandarin orange mark this delicate white from a top producer. It's more elegant than the Aphros, with a tad more alcohol.

2018 G.D. Vajra Moscato d'Asti. This is a day-drinking wine, even in a heat wave. Fun, lightly sweet and sparkling, with pure, intense orange blossom and hints of lemons and flavors of fresh citrus and spice. At a mere 5.5% alcohol, it's almost like a sessionable beer.

2018 Bonavita Terre Siciliane Rosato. This mouthwatering rosato is zippy with notes of cherries and raspberries. It's a serious wine, with 11.5% alcohol.

2018 Loco Indica Rose. Juicy, fresh watermelon notes, an almost jittery acidity and 12.4% alcohol define this organic rose from Mendocino, Calif.

2017 Planeta Frappato. Spicy and tart, this summery light red is made in Sicily, not far from the sea. At 12.5%, it's fragrant, with aromas of roses and violets, and has the fresh crunchiness of red berries.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Magic in Madrid

El Parque Retiro is more than just its scenery

By SAMANTHA KARLIN
Special to The Washington Post

When I moved to Madrid last spring, I thought El Parque Retiro would merely be my running route. Since then, the nearly 400-year-old park has become so much more: a refuge, a playground, a people-watching hub, an entertainment venue.

One could call the park Madrid's beating heart, a verdant retreat for tourists and locals alike right in the middle of the city. (Its location is so good, in fact, that Napoleon's troops set up their headquarters there during the Spanish War of Independence.)

Hundreds of species of trees, plants and flowers thrive in Retiro along meandering trails and bubbling streams. It also has marble monuments, spectacular rose gardens and a placid lake. In Madrid, a city without a coastline or a roaring river, it is the most enticing place to experience nature, far superior to the vast expanses of Casa Campo, the old hunting grounds located on the Royal Palace's outskirts.

Flanking the park are a few of Madrid's major tourism attractions: the world-renowned Prado, the Puerta de Alcalá, and the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza. Each neighborhood surrounding the park also has a different flavor — bourgeois Salamanca to the north with its Fifth Avenue-style Calle Serrano; trendy Malasaña to the west; and Atocha to the south, featuring the Royal Palace and Madrid's main train station (the site of the devastat-

ing 2004 terrorist attacks).

Every person comes to the park searching for something different. The locals come seeking peaceful contemplation during their lunchtime siestas; a green place to jog or bounce a soccer ball away from city traffic; or a seat at the glass Retiro Library where they can chew on the words of Miguel de Cervantes from yellowed copies of "Don Quixote."

For tourists, it is a place to imagine the noblemen and women who once frequented the gardens, to glide across the great lake in a wooden canoe, or to take in an art exhibit at the Palacio Velázquez.

I happened upon the enchanting wonders of Retiro one by one — as if they were surprises left for me to discover by a devious fairy, or perhaps the green elf that plays the flute atop a crumbling edifice in my favorite garden.

First, it was the peacocks. Entering the park from Principe de Vergara, I first passed through the pink remains of an 11th century Romanesque church, the Ruins of San Isidoro, admiring the graceful arcs of the marble.

I then encountered an area I find more intriguing each time I visit. The shuttered green buildings and the open central pit used to be home to monkeys, giraffes, elephants and bears. La Casa de Fieras, Retiro's zoo, was a main attraction for almost 200 years, only closing its doors in 1972.

(The zoo has a shameful history. In 1887, set up next to the animal cages was a human zoo



(iStock photos)



composed of "43 indigenous Filipinos, a Negro, several Tagalogs, the Chamorros, the Carolinos, the Moros de Jolo and a group of Bisayas," according to researcher and author Christian Baez.)

Leaving the former zoo, I came to a set of stone lions guarding an arched walkway fit for a wedding procession.

Running through them like a bride fleeing the altar, I passed two duck ponds, then entered Los Jardines de Cecilio Rodríguez. Rodríguez was Retiro's main gardener at the turn of the 20th century, and his graceful touch can be found everywhere. Checkered paths weave through gardens framed by alabaster ivy-wrapped columns, trimmed cypress trees, box hedges, pergolas and ponds with floating lilies.

A pop of cobalt blue and fluorescent green suddenly emerged in front of me, stopping me mid-stride as I gaped at this creature in my path.

The proud peacock walked daintily down the stone steps, showing off his feathers to a bevy of cooing tourists as if he were Cinderella descending the red velvet staircase. But he wasn't the only peacock. As I looked around, I realized that they were everywhere, peacocks meandering right and left across the lawn and stone steps. It was obviously

their home, and we were the unwitted guests; they could have been the reincarnation of the princesses and kings who once strolled these gardens, shunning visitors from the outside.

For at one point, only the royal family and the aristocracy could enter the park. It was designed in the 1600s specifically to be a retreat (retiro) for the kings, and even held a second palace. Over time, the general public was sparingly permitted access to pieces of the park, until Queen Isabella II was deposed by La Gloria — the Spanish revolution — in 1868, and all of the park's wonders finally became open to everyone.

The next time I spun into the park, I was swept away by a different one of my senses — hearing. Each curve in the path presented a new panoply of pitches and melodies. First it was a wrinkled Spaniard in front of the Palacio Cristal twinkling his hands across glass flutes, his notes piercing the air with the clarity of the waterfall descending across from me.

The Palacio Cristal epitomizes what the Spanish would call "tranquila." The glimmering crystal palace invites you in, while swans linger on the pond in front. Once exhibiting tropical

Clockwise from top: Tourists glide across the lake in wooden canoes in front of the palatial Monumento del Alfonso Rey III. The Rosaleda rose garden, designed in 1915, is at peak bloom in late April through early June. A woman relaxes under the impressive trees in El Parque Retiro.

KNOW & GO

EL PARQUE RETIRO

Address: Plazade la Independencia, 7

Online: esmadrid.com/en/tourist-information/parque-del-retiro

Park hours are 6 a.m. to midnight April through September and 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. October through March. Admission is free. Rowboat rentals on the park's lake cost \$7 Monday through Fridays, \$9 Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays; hours are seasonal. For more information, call 34-91-574-40-24. Visitors can also ride on a solar-powered boat Tuesday through Sunday and holidays; hours are seasonal. Rides cost about \$2.



A former greenhouse, the glimmering Palacio Cristal now hosts rotating art exhibitions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

FROM PAGE 30

plants from the Philippines, the former greenhouse now hosts rotating art exhibitions. When I ventured in, I encountered a ceramic snow-white man atop his gallant horse, and a ceramic man lounging nude across the way.

Ambling back to the lake, I encountered a young violinist and violin indulging in the dulcet harmonies of Mozart, their bows frolicking across the strings with the skill of seasoned musicians.

Finally, I stopped to lounge on the elegant white marble steps of the palatial Monumento del Alfonso Rey III. The sun was setting over the lake, and as a jazz guitarist with tousled dark hair spun solos, the notes seemed to bleed into the orange and fuchsia streaks drenching the sky.

The thread unifying all of the park's musicians was joy — they plied their instruments with the tenderness of musicians who play for themselves.

Parque Retiro is also a bastion for books. Real books, with pages you can touch and words that can channel you to enchanted jungle far away as the breeze licks your hair, without a text message jerking you back to reality with a hissing buzz.

Every day, book sellers set up their wooden stalls on the Cuesta de Moyano, featuring ancient maps of disappeared Spanish cities and worn copies of novels about the Spanish Civil War.

Once a year, a huge book fair — el Feria del Libro — fills a half-mile of the park. When I went, it was packed with book lovers, giving the writer in me hope that the written word is not, in fact, dead.

On my next journey, I encountered a rose garden so marvelous I was embarrassed to enter in such plebeian attire. Designed in 1915, La Rosaleda bursts with wine-colored, magenta, peach and soft pink roses, many from France and Denmark, laid out in a circular design. Stone angels peer out over the roses as they trickle water into elaborate fountains. I vowed to return in crimson lipstick and my finest ballgown. The garden is at its fullest bloom in late April through early June.

French roses were a fitting transition to the stately French gardens, La Parterre, which gracefully lead to the Prado. At one time, the grandest of Italian operas were performed here. As a former opera singer and thespian, I became enamored of the gray statue in the middle, a mourning woman holding a theatrical mask atop the head of a stately gentleman. He was Jacinto Benavente, a Spanish playwright and winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1922, and she the representation of his works. I appreciate that about the park — rather than every statue representing a general or a king, playwrights, poets, writers and their stories are peppered throughout, showing an appreciation of the cultural side of history.

Although my time in Spain is dwindling, I plan to spend as much of it as I can running through Retiro's gardens and serpentine trails. Or perhaps I'll ditch my Nikes and dance among the roses in my finest attire the way the queen once did.

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific



PHOTOS BY DOUG HANSEN, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

The bay in front of the Marina Bay Sands hotel nicely reflects the towering Singapore skyline at sunset. The city has tried to create a more eco-friendly environment.

Singapore should have been Asia tour's grand finale, not its first stop

By DOUG HANSEN

The San Diego Union-Tribune

A 30-foot-long, red and yellow cloth dragon with daggerlike white teeth blocked our way as my wife, Shirin, and I strolled down Singapore's famed Orchard Road, a tree-lined boulevard known for its upscale stores and hotels. Drums beat rhythmically as a dozen men maneuvered the undulating dragon along the broad sidewalk. This symbol of strength, power and good luck in Chinese culture was part of the lingering festivities following the Chinese New Year 10 days earlier. As we paused to watch the colorful show, I thought to myself, "You have to expect the unexpected in Singapore."

Our five days in Singapore were meant to be a warmup for our six-week Southeast Asia tour, but I discovered belatedly that Singapore should have been the grand finale, since it proved to be one of the highlights of our five-country trip. In fact, Singapore has become my favorite major, modern city in the world.

There is much to like about Singapore, but I'll start by getting out of the way the only two drawbacks I can think of. First, Singapore is consistently ranked among the most expensive cities in the world, along with Paris and Hong Kong. Second, due to its proximity to the equator, Singapore's average temperature hovers around a daily high of 88 degrees and a low of 75 degrees, with 84% average humidity and rain showers possible on most days. The all-time low temperature is 66.9 degrees.

Modern Singapore was founded by Sir Stamford Raffles in 1819 as a trading post for the British East India Company. The island city state (just 279 square miles) blossomed in only six decades from

a place of strife and relative poverty to a global powerhouse for entertainment, education, finance, health care, manufacturing, technology, tourism and transportation.

During our visit to the National Museum, we were struck by the magnitude of the country's accomplishments, displayed in what could be called "the bragging rights room": Singapore is consistently rated as one of the world's safest and cleanest countries; it has the world's top rated airport and airline; its students year after year rank No. 1 in the world for science, reading and math; it is the world's second busiest container port, third largest global foreign exchange market and third largest oil and refining center; and Singapore ranks as the eighth healthiest country.

As we toured various parts of the city, invariably we found the Singaporeans to be kind and helpful. Fortunately for us, English is their main official language, followed by Malay, Mandarin and Tamil. We never perceived any tension as people from Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Philippines, India and Europe mixed freely everywhere.

"Even though we have a very mixed population," explained a local man, "we all get along well because from the earliest days our country focused on policies that ensured that people from different countries and cultures could live and work together peacefully. That's why every year on July 21 we celebrate Racial Harmony Day, to remind ourselves of how important this is for our success."

My wife and I opted for an unorthodox way to explore the city by staying in hotels in three different areas. Our first hotel, the Six Senses Duxton, placed us near Chinatown, the elaborate Buddha

CONTINUED ON PAGE 33



Above: Singapore now carefully preserves its remaining historic buildings such as these scattered throughout the city.

Left: One of many images of Buddha found inside the Buddha Tooth Temple.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Pacific



DOUG HANSEN, SAN DIEGO UNION-TRIBUNE/TNS

The iconic Singapore Lion fountain at Merlion Park.

FROM PAGE 32

Tooth Relic Temple and across from the Maxwell Hawker Center, one of the city's best places to try tasty yet inexpensive Singaporean dishes. The boutique hotel is located in a row of carefully restored trading houses, which accounted for rooms named the Opium Room and Shophouse Room.

While much of Singapore has been rebuilt with towering modern buildings, the city now rigorously preserves the remaining historic homes and shops as heritage sites. We made a reservation to see a good example of this protection, the NUS Baba House. As a carefully restored Chinese home built in 1895, it gave us a glimpse into the lives and traditions of a wealthy Chinese family in that era.

Our next lodging, the five-star Capitel Kempinski Hotel, had recently opened after a restoration that combined two historic structures. This location placed us within walking distance of several major museums, the famed Raffles Hotel, St. Andrew's Cathedral and the spectacular bayside Merlion Park, all within a 10- to 15-minute walk.

For our initial outing, we headed first thing in the morning to the 160-year-old Singapore Botanic Gardens, only 10 minutes by taxi from our hotel. Being plant lovers, we had looked forward to visiting these gardens, and we weren't disappointed. We delighted in exploring this UNESCO World Heritage site, whose 203 acres of tropical gardens offered miles of hiking and jogging trails, three lakes and a spectacular orchid garden.

The area surrounding our hotel was attractive during the daytime, but after nightfall the city transformed itself into a nocturnal kaleidoscope of color, especially down by the bay. The horseshoe-shaped bay presented a Las Vegas-like fountain show with sound and lights, while the city's signature Singapore Lion spouted a massive stream of water from its jaws as hidden lights painted the statue in endlessly changing colors and patterns.

Small tour boats festooned with colored lights twinkled in the water while in the background, the three towers of the iconic Marina Bay Sands Hotel loomed large, topped by an enormous lintel shaped like the bow of a ship. When we visited that lofty perch, the 360-degree view of Singapore was overshadowed by the enormous infinity pool ground seemed to float in the air 57 stories above the city. Below, the

giant lotus flower-shaped Art & Science Museum added to our sensory overload as constantly changing colors and textures painted the petals of the unique structure.

Behind the Marina Bay, on a 250-acre man-made island, is another of Singapore's must-see attractions, the Gardens by the Bay. We visited the site in the late afternoon in order to appreciate it during the daylight, especially the glass-enclosed Flower Dome and Cloud Forest, with the world's tallest enclosed waterfall. As the night sky darkened, a sound and light show began in the Supertree Grove where a stand of hundred-foot-tall, man-made trees changed colors to the rhythm of the music, glowing majestically in hues of lavender, orange, purple and magenta.

Wherever we walked, we appreciated Singapore's efforts to create a more eco-friendly environment. As a result, large, lovely trees graced most streets, while many buildings had walls and roofs covered with plants. In some areas, pastel-colored, historic shophouse rows stood in stark contrast to the surrounding modern buildings with their stunning architectural designs.

One of our taxi drivers boasted, "Dining is our national pastime," and it certainly seemed true, based on the number of international restaurants and the 114 hawker centers that offered every kind of food imaginable.

For our final exploration of the city, we decided to splurge and stay at the five-star Capella Singapore on exclusive Sentosa Island, known for its beaches, golf courses and attractions including Universal Studios Singapore.

Inside our hotel's courtyard, we found a brass plaque embedded in the sidewalk, marking the spot where President Donald Trump first shook hands with North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un. Our room overlooked the cargo ship-filled South China Sea and nearby Indonesian island of Sumatra, with oil refinery structures. A path behind the hotel led us down to a sandy beach and a free shuttle that transported visitors around the island. Our sense of contentment with our elegant room was enhanced by an exquisite meal in Cassia, the hotel's Cantonese-food restaurant.

As we prepared to leave Singapore and continue our Southeast Asia sojourn, Shirin and I agreed that someday we will return, stay longer and savor even more of the specialness of Singapore — a bold, vibrant, attractive and innovative city-state with pleasant surprises around every corner.



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

The eggs Benedict from Pig 'N' Whistle, a sports bar in Brisbane, Australia, that's open 24 hours.

Go British in Brisbane

Find pub food, sports of all kinds at the Pig 'N' Whistle

BY SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Take away dribbling, dunks and the backboard from basketball and what have you got? Not a spectator sport, in my opinion, but something called "netball" was playing on my hotel television during a recent trip to Brisbane, Australia.

To say Australia is sports mad is an understatement, but deployed U.S. servicemembers Down Under might take a while to get accustomed to some of the games played there.

The most popular sport is Australian Rules Football, which involves a lot of punting and running around a massive oval that's a lot bigger than an American football field.

Rugby is also big, with teams participating in the National Rugby League and Super XV contests alongside rivals from New Zealand and South Africa.

And, of course, cricket is the national pastime.

You can watch all that as well as American sports at the Pig 'N' Whistle — a chain of bars that screen sports 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There's one in the Queen Street Mall in downtown Brisbane.

On the morning I visited it was showing tennis replays and English soccer. Those not into what's playing on the TVs can watch crowds of shoppers file past.

Breakfast is available from 7 a.m. I ordered the eggs Benedict for AUS\$23 (about \$16), which included salmon, poached eggs, spinach, hollandaise, tomato and a croissant. If you order them with ham or mushrooms, they're slightly cheaper.

The portion was about the right size for breakfast — not too small but not excessive — and they went down well with a large mug of coffee (\$AUS5 or about \$3.50), which Australians call a "laug black." A "flat white" is the fancy, frothy kind.

If you're super hungry you might opt for the full English "Fry-Up," which includes poached eggs, bacon, sausage, tomato, mushroom, baked beans, toast and a mystery ingredient called "bubble & squeak."

The pub also offers lunch and dinner and has a bar stocked with beer, wine and spirits. You can try local brews such as XXXX Gold (\$AUS9.60 or \$6.80 per pint) and Tooheys New (\$AUS9.80 or \$6.84 per pint), along with imports such as Guinness (\$AUS10.90 or \$7.60 per pint).

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AFTER
HOURS
AUSTRALIA



The Pig 'N' Whistle sports bar in Brisbane, Australia, starts serving breakfast at 7 a.m.

PIG 'N' WHISTLE

Location: Queen Street Mall, Brisbane QLD 4001, Australia

Hours: Open around the clock, seven days per week

Prices: Most meals are under \$14 U.S. with kids meals starting at \$6.

Dress: Casual

Directions: The restaurant is smack in the middle of the mall, across the road from MacArthur Museum Brisbane.

Information: +61-7-3003-1593; Online: pign-whistle.com.au

—Seth Robson

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

7 tips for traveling with adult children

As children turn 18 and develop into adulthood, and then get married and have kids of their own, is it still possible to travel together and still get along? Here are seven tips on how to make a vacation with your adult children a fun and memorable experience.

BY PAUL HENNEY ■ *TravelPulse*

Talk about priorities and goals beforehand

With kids, you might give them a couple of choices on where to go, say Florida or South Carolina, early in the planning process. But with adult children, you have to come into the discussion more as equals.

If you don't already have a place in mind (or if it's already been decided, as in you're all going to a relative's destination wedding together), get their input from the beginning. That doesn't just mean the physical place you're traveling to. Ask what do they want out of the trip. Adventure? Discovery? Relaxation? Quality family time together? Have everyone sit down, or even get on Facetime together, and really discuss everyone's interests, priorities and goals for the trip.

You have to talk about money

During the planning stage, budget has to be a part of the discussion. Are you covering everything? Are you paying for the cruise, but the kids are on their own for alcohol, excursions and extras? Are you splitting everything 50-50?

Don't let your children think you're paying for everything like you always did in the past, and then have an argument in a restaurant when the bill comes. That's not fun for anyone. If they need to save/budget for the trip, let them know that way in advance.

Remember to compromise

While this is important with most any trip, now that your children are adults, they might have very specific preferences about things that weren't on your radar. They could have strong opinions on things such as hotel type and location, what excursions or side trips are important to them and how much money to spend.

Even food choices can be an issue. You might want to have a big breakfast every morning while they want to sleep in and have lazy mornings. Don't fume over when they're going to get up — talk about that before you leave home so no one is disappointed or surprised. Similarly, if they want 9-30 p.m.-ish dinners at a steakhouse and you're more interested in light, healthy early dinners, that can lead to conflict. One solution could be to rotate meal preferences as well as eat occasional meals separately.

Add in some flexibility

Some free time to add in something you didn't think about — or just to have quiet time — is important, especially if you're all traveling as adults for the first time as some surprises are bound to come up. Someone may be a lot more tired from the activities than everyone else, or a few people may be restless with the idea of yet another day at the beach.

Giving your schedule some days that are more free-form may be the stress release everyone needs midway through the trip, especially if some things aren't going the way they expected.

Don't make assumptions

The first time I traveled with my adult son, I assumed he'd want a lot of free time to himself at our all-inclusive resort. Thus, I gave him plenty of opportunities to go hang out without me, because that's what I assumed he was craving. In the end, while he did take some time for himself, he also craved time together and didn't mind tagging along with me to the beach or the pool or the bar.

If your kids have small children of their own, take their needs into account first

It's easy to forget how central to vacation planning the needs of little ones becomes. Give your adult children plenty of say in everything, and stick to family-friendly places, from resorts to restaurants. Don't try to fit in too much, as that is stressful for both parents and little kids. And most of all, remember that everyone has different parenting styles.

If they're younger adults, give them the chance to screw up

If your kids are in their late teens or early 20s, you likely have always led the way through strange airports, cities and streets. But remember how much more you paid attention to street names, landmarks and so forth the first time you sat in the driver's seat of a car? When you were a passenger, it wasn't vital for you to know exactly how to get around.

So, let them find a taxi or plan the subway route to your daily activity. Let them pick which boat company to hire for an afternoon snorkel trip — and negotiate the price. Allow them to pick a restaurant and sell the rest of the group on it. Let them plan a day that you haven't shored up plans for. Give them space to fail — or succeed — because even most screw-ups will be fine and give you plenty to reminisce and laugh about in the coming years.



WEEKEND: GADGETS

GADGET WATCH

Wireless control fan-tastic

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

Earlier this year, Lutron Caseta added a wireless fan-speed control to its smart home lineup.

I leave my ceiling fan on, and the only time I seem to deal with it is when a storm knocks the power off and forces me to find the remote and turn it back on. If you don't have a remote, there's always that attractive pull chain.

That problem has been solved with the Caseta wireless fan-speed controller, which puts full control of your fan in the palm of your hand.

It will turn your existing ceiling fan into a wireless smart home-controlled device for turning it on and off, controlling speed, programming schedules and syncing with other smart home products. The wireless fan speed controller is perfect on its own but if you want to create schedules with other Lutron smart home accessories, you'll need to add a Caseta bridge (\$78.57).

Assuming you already have a ceiling fan installed, adding the Lutron hardware is not very complex, but it does require swapping out the in-wall fan control switch. The installation requires you to turn off the circuit in your home that controls the fan switch. If you are not familiar with this setup, please get some professional advice or help.

Once the power is off, taking the old switch out and putting the Caseta fan control in its place takes only a few minutes. The instructions note that a neutral wire is required, and you need to follow the instructions for the correct wire connections.

If you don't know how to locate the neutral wire or haven't heard that term, according to the site smartHome.com, a neutral wire is a type of wire that carries current back to the source of power and/or regular voltage, allowing power to return to its original source. The site also states if your house was built from the mid-1980s onward, there's a strong chance you'll have neutral wires throughout your home.

I'm often emailed questions about the installation of products like this one. I am not an electrician, so I won't attempt complex electrical projects, but changing plugs, changing switches and installing products like this are all pretty straightforward. The included quick start guide is well-written, with step-by-step instructions and graphics to make the installation simple.

The guide said the installation takes about 15 minutes, but it only took me about nine. The results are great and give you control over something you have always had but probably don't think much about. It's worth noting that each Caseta will control only one fan.



Lutron/TNS

Caseta's wireless fan speed controller turns your ceiling fan into a smart home device.

During the setup, you'll link the wireless system to your existing hardware. The wireless fan control system has an accompanying app, which lets you have full control of your fan when you're home or away from home. This is where you can set up schedules to make sure the fans are on or off when needed. Schedules and the bridge allow you to set your fans and lights to be on when you arrive home.

The app also adjusts times, daylight saving time and has a smart away feature to randomly turn on and off when you're away from home.

The fan wireless controller is easy to work with buttons by pressing any of the five buttons for power and fan speed in its increments. It displays the speed of the fan in LEDs. If you have a voice assistant, the Lutron works with Alexa, Apple HomeKit and the Google Assistant.

While the Caseta works great, my wife and I agree that getting rid of any pull chains hanging down from a fan improves the view.

Online: lutron.com; \$59.95; available in choices of white, light almond, ivory and black.

Twelve South has released the tailored **AirSnap Twill** case for AirPods.

The perfectly fitted case, woven in premium and attractive water-resistant fabric, stores, protects and gives easy access to the earbuds when needed. A metal snap keeps the case securely closed and a built-in clip keeps AirSnap Twill attached to your backpack or bag.

Charging is also done when the earbuds are in the case with easy access to the Lightning port, or just put the AirSnap Twill case right on your Qi charger for wireless charging.

The AirSnap Twill case is fully compatible with first and second-generation AirPods cases.

Online: twelvesouth.com; \$34.99, available in smoke gray and fog gray.



PHOTOS BY CHARLES TRAINOR, MIAMI HERALD/TNS

Freddy Sidi is CEO and president of Chargello, a company that provides venues with portable chargers for cellphones to help their customers keep their phones charged.

Charges that customers want

Company's devices keep phones juiced in public places

By MAYA LORA
Miami Herald

In three years, Freddy Sidi has proved that it is indeed worth the money to advertise on phone chargers.

Back in April 2016, Sidi and Chargello co-founder Johnny Bosche installed their first high-speed charging unit in a riverside Miami restaurant. Two years later, Chargello's units are in 6,000 fixed locations in 25 countries around the world, with 300 in Miami alone, Sidi said.

Sidi has his eyes on the continued expansion of the Chargello brand.

"We want to be well known and kind of a household brand," Sidi said. "We want to create a culture of asking for a charger everywhere you go and (one) becoming available for you, everywhere you go."

Bosche now works internationally for Chargello and travels between Miami and Doha, Qatar, said Sidi.

Shortly after launching, Chargello was chosen as an Endeavor Entrepreneur, gaining access to Endeavor's mentorship and capital. Chargello's big ideas helped them win the honor.

"Batteries in our smart devices cannot keep up with the needs of our modern day life, so they're fixing that problem," said Juan Pablo D'Alessandro, Endeavor's manager of entrepreneur selection and growth.

Chargello is trying to fix the problem in a way "that no one else was doing," D'Alessandro said.

There's more to Chargello's plan than just providing a high-speed charge. The company also wants to deliver advertising messages.

That's part of the reason Chargello's batteries are large and bulky. The design serves three goals: providing a much faster charge than a traditional wall outlet, keeping a customer from easily making off with the charger and providing a large, clean space for advertisers.

The design doesn't seem to bother customers.

At the 1 Hotel on South Beach, customers often use the property's 50 chargers. Director of Outdoor Dining Ramsey Pimental said.

"The chargers are great and the perfect way for guests to charge their phones without having to leave their devices with our staff," Pimental said in an email.

Since launching, Sidi said Chargello has secured several large advertisers, including American Express, Disney, Mastercard and Bacardi. Carnival Cruise Line is testing the batteries in bars on some of its ships, Carnival spokesperson



Chargello makes its money by making its charging devices available for marketing.

Vance Gulliksen said.

Venues like restaurants, tattoo shops, car dealerships and banks can receive Chargello units for free, as long as Chargello has secured an advertiser for those units. For a \$200-per-kit fee, venues can choose to both use the chargers and deploy their own advertising.

Sidi's team developed the battery units, chargers and magnetic cables for the Chargello units, which only work together. But Sidi sees Chargello's major competition as other advertising avenues, not other battery and technology companies. Chargello's strategy: target the likeliest customers by matching the message to the location, such as placing chargers advertising Pampers in neonatal care and OBGYN offices.

"No one is watching TV; no one is reading the magazine anymore; everyone is on their phone. So we have a very good pitch for doctors' offices: keep your patients patient," Sidi said. "And for Pampers, you know, nine months with a pregnant woman, who had a great branding experience — there's nowhere better for them to advertise."

Chargello is opening an office in New York and will deploy 10,000 batteries into the market in the next three months, Sidi said. The company plans to open additional offices in Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas and Las Vegas before the end of the year, for a total of 20 U.S. markets by mid-2020.

Chargello brought in over \$3 million in revenue last year, said Sidi. He anticipates that figure will double this year. And he said Miami is already running profitably.

WEEKEND: MUSIC



EMI

A new ending

Behind the 50th anniversary remix of the Beatles' final recording

BY RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

One evening in 1969, as the Beatles were working on a scorching new John Lennon rocker called "I Want You (She's So Heavy)" for their next album, an engineer popped his head into their London recording studio to deliver a warning.

"One of the guys says, 'There've been some complaints from outside and we need to turn down a bit,'" producer Giles Martin said, recounting a favorite moment from the original session tapes he's immersed himself in while assembling the 50th-anniversary remix of "Abbey Road."

"The guitars were pretty loud, and there probably was some [sound] leakage. It's very late at night, and you hear John say, 'Is it OK if we do one more and then we'll turn down?'" Martin, 49, said during a recent visit to Capitol Studio B in Hollywood, unable to suppress a smile at the thought of anyone ordering the world's biggest rock band to pipe down. As Lennon tells his mates on the session tape, "Last chance to be loud!"

Martin's remix of "Abbey Road" is set for release on Sept. 27, a day after the 50th anniversary of the album's U.K. release and four days ahead of the date it arrived stateside. It's the latest in a series of sonic upgrades and musical explorations of the Fab Four's work, which began in earnest with the 2017 royal treatment afforded "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

That paved the way for last year's even more expansive 50th-anniversary reissue of their 1968 double album, "The Beatles," aka the White Album.



'Abbey Road' gains impact, clarity and tangibility in a mix that brings the recording presumably that much closer to what the band sounded like in the studio five decades ago.

As with the two previous projects, Martin has gone back to the original analog eight-track master tapes, keeping contemporary ears and audio equipment in mind for this remix of the final album recorded by Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr before they formally called it quits in 1970.

"I've said this before: You don't want your kids to listen to the Beatles' records and go, 'God, this sounds old,'" said Martin, who took over production of Beatles releases from his father, the group's original producer, George Martin, who died in 2016. That passing of the torch began with their father-son collaboration that created the mashup soundtrack for "The Beatles Love" show that Cirque du Soleil has been staging in Las Vegas since 2006.

McCartney and Starr, whose bass and drum parts are generally the biggest beneficiaries of the remixes, have been enthusiastic about the updates. (Each Beatles reissue also is subject to the approval of Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, and Harrison's widow, Olivia Harrison, before they are released.)

"For me, as the drummer, [the remix] is great because the drums — now you can hear them," Starr, 79, told The Times recently at Capitol Studio A in Hollywood. He noted how in the early days of the band's recording career, much of the bass content — most noticeably affecting the drums and bass guitar — was toned down to accommodate the record players in common usage at that time.

"In those days, if you wanted to take any of the bass off, you start with the bass drum stuff," Starr said. "If you listen to something like 'Love Me Do,' there's no bass drum, no bass, because we've taken that off."

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WEEKEND: MUSIC REVIEWS

FROM PAGE 36

The anniversary reissue will be packaged in several formats, the most ambitious being a box set comprising three CDs of audio tracks, plus a fourth Blu-ray disc with high-resolution versions of the album's new stereo mix, a 5.1 surround-sound version and another in Dolby Atmos, the first for a Beatles release. It will come with a 100-page book packed with session photos, introductions from McCartney and Giles Martin, a facsimile of one of George Martin's orchestral scores and new essays by Beatles historian Kevin Howlett and music journalist David Hepworth.

"Everything we do is done with two things in mind," said Bruce Resnikoff, president and CEO of Universal Music Enterprises, which manages the Beatles' recordings in partnership with the group's Apple Corps Ltd. "One, we want to create something specifically for fans who've been there for as much as 50-plus years; we also want to create something engaging for young people who weren't around when the Beatles were first going."

The bonus audio discs with the "Abbey Road" reissue contain nearly two dozen alternate takes, studio chatter among the Beatles and other session participants and demo versions of songs the foursome was working on at the time but were not part of the "Abbey Road" album.

Among them: both sides of their '69 hit single "The Ballad of John and Yoko" and "Old Brown Shoe"; McCartney's demo versions of two songs he handed off to other musicians he produced for their fledgling Apple Records label—Mary Hopkins' "Goodbye" and Badfinger's "Come and Get It"; plus an isolated track highlighting longtime Beatles producer-arranger George Martin's orchestral accompaniment for Harrison's ballad "Something."

As to Lennon's surprisingly polite response to the misdeed request that he and the band back off, Giles Martin thinks it's a great example of one essential quality that suffuses "Abbey Road," that of a conscious victory lap for a group that had scaled virtually every peak the world had to offer.

"It's really sweet that you hear John say that," he said. "I think that everyone's on their best behavior to a certain extent."

They know this is going to be their last album. You can tell they're going to make sure it's a good one and that everyone's songs are going to get equal attention."

Their top-selling album

"Abbey Road" represented a reunion of sorts for the band members and George Martin.

His input had been reduced the previous year when they made the White Album. Martin often felt sidelined while the four Beatles flexed their increasingly assured muscles working the control boards at what until that time was known as EMI Recording Studio.

Early in 1969, more distractions ensued while they attempted to film their creative process for a new album, which eventually would be released in 1970 as "Let It Be."

The "Let It Be" songs, however, were recorded before McCartney was sidelined in large part at Twickenham Film Studio under the lights and gaze of director Michael Lindsay-Hogg. The experience, outside their comfort zone at Abbey Road Studios, exacerbated growing tensions and creative differences among the four. Nevertheless, a few months later McCartney approached Martin to produce another album for them.

"Let It Be" was a miserable experience, and I never thought that we would get back together again," George Martin told Beatles historian and biographer Mark Lewisohn in his 1988 book, "The Complete Beatles Recording Sessions." "So I was very surprised when Paul rang me up and said, 'We want to make another record. Will you produce it for us, really produce it?'"

Among the group's original studio albums,



The Beatles, from left, John Lennon, George Harrison, Ringo Starr and Paul McCartney, are pictured in 1967. The successful remaster of their '67 album "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" paved the way for the reworking of "Abbey Road."

"Abbey Road" is their top seller worldwide, according to a UME spokesperson, and has been certified for sales of more than 12 million copies in the U.S. alone, according to the Recording Industry Association of America.

"Think about it," Giles Martin said. "The Beatles recorded some of their most successful, most popular songs on their last album. I can't think of another band that can say that." In fact, Harrison's "Here Comes the Sun" has become the most-streamed song in their catalog, according to SoundScan, even though it was never released as a single, while "Let It Be" is the catalog's most downloaded track.

Indeed, "Abbey Road" yielded two of Harrison's finest compositions, "Something" and "Here Comes the Sun," along with Lennon's hard-driving rockers "Come Together" and "I Want You (She's So Heavy)" and his harmonically and lyrically exquisite ballad "Because," McCartney's '50s R&B-inspired "Old Darling," the whimsical "Maxwell's Silver Hammer," as well as Starr's innately sweet rocker "Octopus's Garden."

As for the celebrated studio itself, it was opened in 1931 by composer and conductor Edward Elgar as "the world's first purpose-built recording studio," residing on the street named Abbey Road in London's posh St. John's Wood neighborhood, where McCartney owns a home just around the corner.

"In naming their album 'Abbey Road,' the Beatles bestowed instant world fame upon the studio in which they had recorded almost all of their output," Lewisohn wrote. "Since the day of the LP release, the studio building has taken on an almost tangible aura of magic. Like the zebra [street] crossing outside—it is visited daily, still, by tourists from all over the world."

Messing with history?

The "Sgt. Pepper's" and White Album remakes were critical and commercial hits. Both received perfect 100 scores on the Metacritic.com aggregate website. The reissued "Sgt. Pepper" entered the Billboard 200 album chart at No. 3 in 2017, and the more costly White Album reissue debuted at No. 6 last year.

They also helped introduce the group's music to younger listeners. "The average age of the listener for Beatles music has actually dropped," said UME's Resnikoff. "Both 'Sgt. Pepper' and the White Album, in their initial streaming week, registered hundreds of percent more streaming than they had before. And they averaged a million more streams per week through the rest of the year than they had the previous year."

Still, a vocal minority of musicians and purist fans balk at the notion of tinkering with what the Beatles and George Martin

signed off on originally.

"Can we just get the extras without the remixes of the original LPs?" Benmont Tench, longtime keyboard player for Tom Petty's Heartbreakers, tweeted recently. "[Engineer] Geoff Emerick & George Martin got it right the first time. How's about we repaint [Picasso's] 'Guernica' while we're at it?"

Martin gets the argument from purists who don't believe in remixes, and he won't dismiss them. Consequently, in remixing some of the most beloved recordings of the 20th century, he treads judiciously—aiming to unshackle certain sounds that often were the result of compromises dictated by the limitations of recording and playback equipment of the day but without fundamentally altering the aesthetics of the originals.

Playing side two of "Abbey Road" for a reporter last spring, Martin noted the new mix still wasn't finished—some sound effects, such as the cricket sounds at the opening of "Sun King," had yet to be added back in.

But "Abbey Road" gains impact, clarity and tangibility in a mix that brings the recording presumably that much closer to what the band sounded like in the studio five decades ago.

George Harrison's finger-picked guitar opening pops out of the speakers on "Here Comes the Sun," and the octave-hopping Moog synthesizer part that doubles the guitar arpeggios in the midrange break now sends deeper vibrations into the floorboards.

The exquisite three-part vocal harmonies from Lennon, McCartney and Harrison on "Because," which were overlaid a second and then a third time to create the rich, nine-layer vocal mix, are that much more visceral.

"It's all done by feel," Martin said. "You want to go with what they intended, then you listen to everything, you think about it and you just try to get it right."

Echoing a sentiment consistently expressed in recent years by surviving Beatles McCartney and Starr, Martin observed in listening through the "Abbey Road" tapes that regardless of what frictions may have been developing outside the studio over business matters or shifting personal dynamics, when it came to making music together, the Beatles chemistry remained unmistakable.

"The camaraderie was definitely there. You can't sing 'Because' with those three-part harmonies around the same microphone without having some camaraderie," Martin said.

Longtime "Breakfast With the Beatles" radio show host Chris Carter concurs.

"I think they had to know this was the end," Carter said. "It would be almost foolish to end an album with a song called 'The End' if it wasn't. If you were writing a script about a rock 'n' roll band, and you wanted that band to go out with a bang, that's what you'd do. You couldn't write a better ending."



Drew Holcomb and the Neighbors

Dragons (Thirty Tigers)

Drew Holcomb has slotted himself as the dad next door type, one who writes love songs to his children and his wife and who takes an unassuming stance on the world around him. It's an identity that suits him and one that he continues to embrace on his band's newest album, "Dragons."

While most of the album's tracks are in the same vein as Holcomb and the Neighbors' previous work, the songs "Family" and "End of the World" are a departure as they blend the band's typical Americana sound with pop influences.

It especially works in "End of the World," a song that is surprisingly upbeat despite its title. Holcomb's in-tongue-in-cheek as he encourages people to just go and "smoke 'em if you got 'em," rather than dwell in the world's current state of affairs. The carefree nature of a song is a welcome escape from reality.

The rest of the album adheres to Holcomb's usual sincerity. And while this sincerity is what has attracted much of his fan base, the line he walks is a fine one. While heartfelt, there are times his songs border cheesy in their earnestness.

"See the World," which features his wife Ellie, is a song about the excitement of seeing the world through his child's eyes. It has touching moments, but there are lines that come across as cliché, such as his Peter Pan reference). Similarly, while the sentiment is sweet in "Make It Look So Easy," it sounds like a song that's been written too many times already.

Holcomb shines the brightest on songs that combine his Nashville blues and country roots with vulnerable lyrics such as the title track and "You Never Leave My Heart." They both tap into the storytelling tradition of folk music with "Dragons" giving a redemptive chorus in which his grandfather encourages him to "take a few chances/a few worthy romances/go swimming in the ocean on New Year's Day." "You Never Leave My Heart" gives a retrospective look at memories surrounding the death of Holcomb's brother.

"Dragons" is an honest album and one that gives a window into the life of this dad next door—a Nashville family man who acknowledges both the silver-linings and complexities of life.

—Ragan Clark
Associated Press

WEEKEND: BOOKS

‘It’s more than just a drink’

‘Japanese Whisky’ takes a deep dive into spirit’s Far East history

By THERON GOBOLD
Stars and Stripes

Just as a guidebook is a familiar companion for visitors to new destinations, the world of small distilleries begs its own handbook for those with discriminating tastes.

If Japanese whisky is your destination, check out “Japanese Whisky: The Ultimate Guide to the World’s Most Desirable Spirit” by Brian Aschcraft with Izuhiko Ueda and Yuji Kawasaki.

Aschcraft is an Osaka-based journalist and author of several books on Japanese culture; Ueda is a professional photographer, and Kawasaki writes a Japanese blog, “One More Glass of Whisky.”

Their detailed 144-page guidebook takes the reader through the history, the process and the local cultures of whisky in Japan.

Aschcraft writes that to “truly understand Japanese whisky, you must understand Japanese culture. The country’s whisky tradition is a reflection of everything from national identity and industrialization to art and even religion. It’s more than just a drink.”

In an onymous section, Aschcraft explains “What Makes Japanese Whisky ‘Japanese.’” Relating the concept of balance

to Japanese whisky, Aschcraft uses language as a metaphor. Calligraphy instructors, for example, teach their students to make only the number of strokes necessary to complete the character, no more and no less. The same principle applies to whisky, which has risen to grace in Japan in a relatively short amount of time, he writes.

Proper Japanese whisky-making began in the mid-1920s after the country’s first legitimate venture, the Yamazaki Distillery, came to be. This venture split later to become the Suntory and Nikka distilleries, according to Aschcraft.

The book takes readers through a written and photographic tour of some of the more famous Japanese distilleries throughout the country. Nikka Whisky, one of many brands that Aschcraft discusses, has two distilleries. One is in the hills of Hokkaido prefecture west of Sapporo and the other North of Tokyo near the town of Sendai.

I tried a whisky from Sapporo, one of Nikka’s 28 varieties, called Nikka Whisky from the Barrel which ran about 25 dollars for a



THERON GOBOLD/Stars and Stripes

Nikka Whisky from the Barrel is one of many spirits highlighted in “Japanese Whisky: The Ultimate Guide to the World’s Most Desirable Spirit” by Brian Aschcraft.

little over 16 ounces. Kawasaki’s tasting notes are right on: “[A]s with whiskies of this strength the alcohol is noticeable. But behind that the aromas are sweet and fresh.”

Whisky from the Barrel went down easy like spring water. But the bite in subsequent sips was stronger and left a warm burn on

the way to my insides.

Ueda’s beautiful photos may inspire readers to take a first-hand look at the places where the whisky is distilled. If the book inspires exploration, review the section on tasting notes at the distilleries the authors highlight.

The aroma of oaky peat practically wafts from each page. Pour

two fingers of Suntory into a tumbler while this volume takes you beyond familiar western brands of whisky.

“Japanese Whisky” is available for \$19.99 from Tuttle Publishing and can also be downloaded on Kindle devices for about \$8.

gobold.theron@stripes.com
Twitter: @GoboldTheron

‘D-Day Girls’ traces lives of spies who helped liberate WWII France

By KAREN IRIS TUCKER
Special to The Washington Post

Nearly three years into World War II, Odette Sansom received a mysterious inquiry from the War Office in London inviting her to interview for a role in helping the Allies. The French-born Sansom had fled London’s nightly bombings and

was living in the English countryside with her three young daughters while her husband away fighting. When she traveled into the city, Capt. Selwyn Jepson offered her a job in France working for Her Majesty’s government but didn’t specify the dangerous details. “Her chances of returning alive were no better than even — or less,” writes Sarah Rose in “D-Day Girls: The Spies Who Armed the Resistance, Sabotaged the Nazis, and Helped Win World War II.” Though Sansom had only a vague idea of her commitment, she told her recruiter, “Train me.”

Sansom is one of the daring women who engaged in gallantry and sacrifice in the service of Britain’s secret agency, the Special Operations Executive. Equal parts espionage-romance thriller and historical narrative, “D-Day Girls” traces the lives and secret activities of the 39 women who answered the call to infiltrate France. All were vetted, given their covers might have been blown. Some agents in the vast resistance network of men and women invariably made mistakes; others betrayed their comrades and flipped. As a consequence, some women endured Gestapo torture; some were raped.

In addition to Sansom, Rose details the lives of several women such as Andreé Borrel and Lise de Baissac. Sansom was

ultimately arrested by a secret police officer, Sgt. Hugo Bleicher, after he successfully turned an operative in her circuit. Though she was starved and tortured by the Gestapo, she never divulged information about the Resistance. She was imprisoned at Germany’s Ravensbrück concentration camp, the largest women’s prison in history, but managed to escape. When Fritz Suhren, a German SS officer and Ravensbrück’s commandant, came to trial for his activities at the camp, Sansom testified and helped convict him using the evidence she collected during her time there.

Borrel was regarded by her fellow male paratroopers as “lower-class and scrappy,” though “the men found her accessible, playful, easy to like, easy to share a smoke and a laugh with.” She wound up playing an integral role in an underground escape line that escorted as many as 600 Allied invaders home.

De Baissac, who had grown up in Mauritius, the French-speaking British colony off the coast of Africa, led the resistance in Normandy in 1944. Like Borrel, she had parachuted into France and helped set up safe houses for new agents and organized the pickup of ammunition.

Many of the female agents portrayed in “D-Day Girls” were searching for nontraditional ways to be of service to the cause.

In the words of de Baissac: “I didn’t want to get married. I would have been just ... a wife and mother during the war.”

While chronicling the James Bond-worthy missions and love affairs of these women, Rose vividly captures the broken landscape of war. Of London, she writes, “Much of the city lay in ruins, a ragged collection of gaps and edifices, like a child’s mouth after a lost tooth.” The passages describing France are no less heart-rending: “If occupation means, literally, a place taken over, it was achingly true of Paris in the winter of 1943: Street signage was in German; swastika bunting flapped in bitter breezes; emptied apartments were filled by German troops. The French had a new word for their own sense of dislocation — *depaysement* — not feeling at home. They were de-contrifured.”

“D-Day Girls” is scrupulously researched. Rose not only scoured diaries, oral histories, war crime testimonies and declassified military files, she moved to France to learn the language, went parachuting and studied Morse code so she could immerse herself fully in the lives of her heroines. Packed with details and multiple storylines, “D-Day Girls” may be a bit dense for some readers, but history buffs are likely to find it a treasure trove of previously unexplored details about the lives of these female spies.



WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

"The Hustle": The biggest con in the new comedy "The Hustle" is the ball of comedy fire Rebel Wilson and the versatile Anne Hathaway have come together to make a movie that is going to be entertaining. That's criminally not the case. What they have dropped is an insulting reimaging of the clever 1988 feature "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" built on uninspired writing and predictable plot twists.

The only way a movie built around con artists works is if the writing is so intelligent that at least one major twist will get a gasp from the audience. Check out "Ocean's 8" for a great example. Sadly, the big twist from director Chris Addison is so obvious, the only way it could have been more transparent would have been to buy a major billboard outside every movie complex with the twist printed in massive letters.



Anne Hathaway and Rebel Wilson face off in "The Hustle," now on DVD.

"Arrow: The Complete Seventh Season": The series is based on the DC Comics character, but it's anything but a comic book-inspired TV show. The core has always been family drama, which gets ramped up even more with this season as Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) faces a relative problem.

The season picks up with Queen's decision to turn himself over to the FBI and reveal his identity as the Green Arrow to the public. For five months, his team is left behind to protect Star City. Once Queen gets out of prison, the series gains real steam.

"Perception": Wes Ramsey stars in this tale of a real estate developer whose life is changed by a psychic reading.

"The Harder They Come": Young Jamaican man who wants to be a singer gets involved with corrupt record producers and drug pushers. Originally released in 1972.

"Aniara": Spaceship helping save the human race gets knocked off course.

"The Assault": Two women must flee after their plans for revenge go wrong. Tom Sizemore stars.

"The Brink": Manhunt is on when a police inspector embarks on a mission to crack down on a gold-smuggling scheme.

"A Dog's Journey": Dog remains loyal despite going through multiple lives. Dennis Quaid stars.

"S.W.A.T. Season 2": Shemar Moore stars in this CBS series that follows an elite tactical unit that is the last stop in law enforcement in Los Angeles.

"American Gods: Season Two": Epic fantasy battle between gods and mortals. **"Blue Bloods: The Ninth Season":** Tom Selleck series about a family who has a deep connection to law enforcement.

"Brooklyn Nine-Nine: Season Six": Andy Samberg stars in this network comedy set in a police station.

"NCIS: New Orleans: The Fifth Season": Scott Bakula headlines this series about a group of naval investigators working in the Big Easy.

"The Walking Dead: Season 9": This season of the cable series follows Rick Grimes (Andrew Lincoln) to his exit from the world of zombies and death.

"The Sun Is Also a Star": Love story that looks at whether our lives are determined by fate or the random events of the universe.

— Rick Bentley/Tribune News Service

From left: Adam Devine, Danny McBride, John Goodman and Edi Patterson

HBO

Greed and grace

HBO's 'Righteous Gemstones' lampoons megachurch clan

By LUAINA LEE
Tribune News Service

Fans have watched John Goodman manage the goofy tribulations of the Conner family for 30 years — first on "Roseanne," then on "The Conners." And while he's played everything from the King of England to a drug dealer, viewers have never seen Goodman's latest incarnation.

The 67-year-old actor portrays a millionaire evangelist who doesn't see the difference between greed and grace in the King of England to a drug dealer, viewers have never seen Goodman's latest incarnation.

The Gemstones are a family of televangelists who reign over a megachurch and attract money like locusts in a wheat field. The show stars Goodman as the family patriarch, Danny McBride (who is also producer-writer-director) as Goodman's elder son, Edi Patterson as his daughter, and Adam Devine as his younger son.

Goodman says he understands the fascination for such religious adoration. "When I was a child, I grew up in the Southern Baptist Church, and it was very emotionally involving," he says.

"Anyway, I think that's how they got me. It was a lot of splendor and screaming up at the pulpit. And the rhythms of the speech, and it's something you

wanted very badly to believe in. That's basically what I remember about it. That, and I would get swatted if I didn't go."

McBride, who produced and starred in "Eastbound & Down" and "Vice Principals," shares a background as a Southern Protestant. "I grew up in a very religious household," he says.

"I grew up going to the Baptist church. My mom did puppet ministry growing up. She ministered the children. I spent every Sunday, every Wednesday, every Saturday night at church. And a lot of my family is still very involved with the church. My aunt is a minister in Atlanta."

While the Gemstone family gleefully divvies up the proceeds, it's not about skewering the faithful, insists McBride. "The goal of it is not to be like a take-down of anything," he says.

"I do feel when Hollywood decides to take on religion, I think they make the deadly mistake of lampooning people for their beliefs, which is not something I'm really interested in doing. I don't know enough about what I believe in order to go and pass judgment on other people," he says.

"It's about lampooning a hypocrite, lampooning somebody who presents themselves one way and does not act that way underneath," says McBride.

McBride, who says he gets much of his inspiration from chatter on the internet, thinks some of the most profitable megachurches stretch in their efforts to involve the multitudes.

"Some of these megachurches, they just try to appeal to as many people as they can," he says, "going so far in some instances that they even take down images of the cross or things that might turn people off. So, I think the Gemstones are the epitome of that. I think they're trying to basically water everything down to not offend anyone and just to get as many people bringing money into the church as they can," he says.

"So when I say that we're not taking aim at people's faith, I'm being honest. I'm not just saying it to try to stay away from controversy. It wasn't a goal of mine. I wanted to make something that my aunt, who's a minister, could watch and find the humor in as well.

"And I don't think she'll appreciate the language or the drug use, but I think ultimately, I'm not taking a swipe at her or what she believes in. I'm getting a story in a world that she is familiar with. And ultimately it's a story about a family, and about a family who has grown very, very successful and have lost their way along the way. And I think that that's relatable."

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS



Don't get duped

Tips on how to avoid buying fake dietary supplements

BY NASEEM S. MILLER
Orlando Sentinel

You probably have bought some type of supplement — maybe vitamins, herbs or probiotics — online or at a store. Maybe the doctor recommended it or maybe you heard that it's good for you.

But how can you tell what you're buying, especially online, is the real thing? Not too long ago, Amazon alerted consumers who had purchased Align nutritional supplements from a certain seller that the product was most likely counterfeit and that they needed to stop using it, as reported by Wired.

Align is a Procter & Gamble brand but a third-party merchant was selling counterfeit Align products on Amazon. Amazon pulled the product and is now selling only the genuine supplements, according to Wired.

There are a few things you can do to avoid fakes, and buy high quality supplements. One of them is a verification seal by the 200-year-old US Pharmacopeia, or USP. Also, when shopping online check who's selling the product. On Amazon, for instance, the seller's name is listed after the name of the product you're looking to purchase.

Unlike medications, supplements aren't subject to rigorous testing and federal regulations. But a few organizations, including USP, try to fill that gap by testing and verifying products.

John Atwater, senior director of verification program at USP, explained how the non-profit works and what consumers should do to avoid dupes.

So how do you define supplements?

Dietary supplements contain dietary ingredients and are ingested.

A dietary ingredient is defined as a vitamin, mineral, it could be a botanical, it could almost be anything under the sun. You

might think of them as

being more like a drug product rather than a food, but they are classified as a special form of food.

How are supplements regulated?

Dietary supplements fall under a set of regulations that are different from the conventional food and drug products.

Dietary supplements are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, under the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994, or DSHEA, which classifies dietary supplements as a special category of food.

Under DSHEA, supplement manufacturers and distributors are responsible for substantiating the quality and the safety of the dietary ingredients they use. They are responsible for ensuring that product labeling meets all the requirements. However, dietary supplement manufacturers are not required to get FDA approval before producing or selling dietary supplements, nor are they required to demonstrate clinical efficacy as required for drug products.

So how do you know that what you're buying is the real thing?

The best way for consumers to protect themselves is to ensure that they're purchasing a quality supplement that has a verified mark like USP. And that's really important given the size and diversity of the products and ingredients and the rapid pace with which new dietary supplements are introduced into the market.

It's also advisable for consumers to purchase the supplements from reputable outlets, whether it's a retail store or the Internet. Because if you're dealing with a reputable retailer, they're going to be taking the necessary precautions to ensure that the products that they're selling on their shelves are of good quality.

And use your common sense. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Remember, there's no low barrier of entry into the marketplace for supplements, unlike drugs. There are products out there that claim to be dietary supplements but they aren't.

What does it take for USP to give its seal of approval to a supplement?

We're a nonprofit scientific organization, and our standards are created based solely on science. Our primary mission is to establish standards of quality for drug products and dietary supplements and food ingredients.

We have scientific experts and the standards that we use for dietary supplements go through the same rigorous process that quality standards for drugs that are created by USP go through. The only difference is that it's mandatory for pharmaceutical drug companies to follow USP standards. In the case of dietary supplements, it's optional.

In our program, companies have to validate testing methods to establish all of their claims on the label, not only for determining remedy but also the stability of those ingredients throughout the shelf life of the product.

We test the products for full specifications, for potency of ingredients, contaminants and performance of the products. We also review the product quality control and manufacturing documentation, which makes our program unique.

If companies pass all the tests and correct citations, we award them the right to use the USP mark. And then we enter the surveillance phase and go through the same tests on an annual basis.

What percentage of supplements have a seal like USP?

Unfortunately, a very small percentage. But we've verified hundreds of products and the verification program is getting more recognition in the marketplace, so we've got more demand for the program, so hopefully that number will eventually grow into thousands.

Check your supplements:

■ USP: usp.org/dietary-supplements-herbal-medicines-quality-supplements.org

■ Dietary Supplement Label Database: dssl.nlm.nih.gov/dssl

■ Labdoor: labdoor.com

■ Consumer Labs: consumerlabs.com

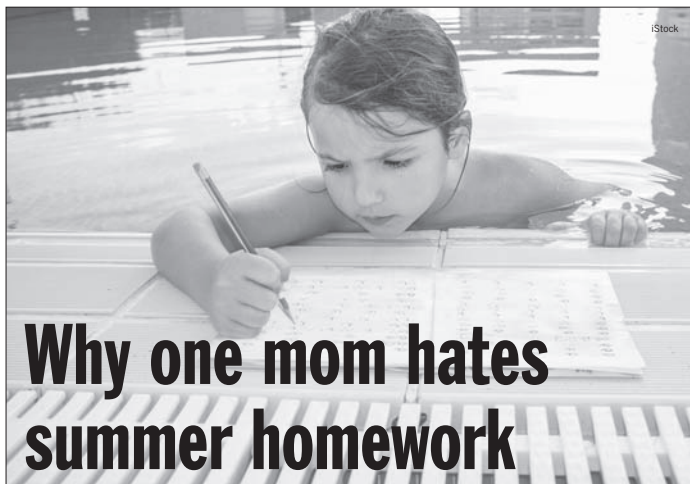
■ Examine: examine.com

■ Dietary Supplement Quality Collaborative: www.dsqualitycollaborative.org

■ LegitScript: legitscript.com

■ Fight the Fakes: fightthefakes.org

WEEKEND: FAMILY



Why one mom hates summer homework

By HEIDI STEVENS
Chicago Tribune

It's the middle of August and my son still hasn't learned how much money Jan has.

William, Jan and Greg have a total of \$26. Greg has the most money. Jan has twice as much money as William. Greg has \$11. How much money does Jan have?

It's right there on page 4 of his 20-page (front and back) summer homework packet. Next to a question about lines of symmetry, underneath an invitation to measure an angle, after he solves 9,876 multiplied by 8.

I think he's supposed to complete one page a day, along with his summer reading assignment: Read "Bud, not Buddy" by Christopher Paul Curtis and write a book report about its contents. We're reading the book. It's fantastic. Not sure we'll get to the report.

He has mostly ignored his summer homework packet, the one that is supposed to prepare him for fifth grade and keep him from falling victim to summer brain drain. I have mostly ignored him ignoring his summer homework packet. I loathe the very notion of a summer homework packet, to be honest.

Give us a book to read, fine. More than fine. Wonderful.

But 20 pages (front and back) of arithmetic and sequencing and reading comprehension and evidence evaluating?

For kids who love an extra academic challenge, who hunger for a tangible assignment to complete, who would rather solve for x than kick a ball around a yard? Yes. I have one of those kids. This packet would've been a dream come true for her, had it arrived the summer before fifth grade.

For kids who are struggling with some subjects and need the summer months to catch up? Who are in danger of feeling hopeless and lost when their teachers throw fifth grade subjects at them? Who might walk into a new classroom with more confidence and calmer nerves after a summer of extra lessons? Yes. I can see how summer home-

COMMENTARY

work might (might) help there too. But for kids like my son, who do well enough in the classes but regard school mostly as an impediment to life's true calling... play, I worry summer homework puts them one step closer to resenting learning altogether.

I worry that it starts to tip the scales in the wrong direction, at an age (he's about to turn 10) when the opinion he forms about the very notion of education could linger for years, maybe even a lifetime.

I know there's a movement in some schools to eliminate homework altogether, even during the school year. I'm not quite there. I appreciate the glimpse into what topics my kids are tackling. I see the wisdom in a nightly reinforcement of that day's lessons. I watch my kids learn, really learn, concepts that were introduced at school but didn't completely sink in until we spent some extra time on them at home.

But I want summer reserved for another kind of learning.

This summer my son learned to slide into second base. He learned which parks near us have baseball diamonds that are consistently unused on weeknights and he learned to bring his own base when we'd visit these parks and he perfected his slide by doing it over and over and over until the sun went down. He learned that when it's too hot to play baseball in the backyard, you can ask your mom to set up a Slip 'N Slide and grab a Wiffle ball and have a really slippery home run derby, where the back alley is home run territory.

During a road trip south, he learned that Greensboro, N.C., has a minor league baseball team called the Greensboro Grasshoppers and they have a bat dog in place of a bat boy/girl. Her name is Little Jackie Robinson. She follows in the footsteps of her predecessors, Miss Babe Ruth and Miss Lou Lou Gehrig.

He learned to canoe.

He learned what it feels and

sounds like to sleep in a tent during a thunderstorm. Or, more precisely, to be woken up in a tent by a thunderstorm around 4 a.m. and then spend the next few hours giggling and talking with your friends instead of going back to sleep while the grown-ups happily, gratefully listen from another tent a few feet over.

He almost learned to do an underwater somersault without holding his nose. A few dozen more tries and he'll nail it.

Summer is when we have time to do the things that get short-changed during the school year. The things he loves. The things I love to watch him love. The things we grab a taste of from September to June, but only a taste because there's always homework to do and tests to study for and projects to complete and bedtimes to adhere to.

Could we do a page of homework a day and still find time for all those other things? I'm certain we could. I realize my resentment of that packet is more philosophical than logistical.

But I think there's value and beauty in a string of days and weeks with nothing that gets graded, nothing that might show up on a test, nothing that interrupts the sweet, slow rhythm of summer. I think that's the worth walling off and protecting.

I think, in fact, it builds in room for school-based learning to seem exciting and fun, rather than an endless stream of tasks that even follow you home on summer break.

I cherish and respect my son's teachers too much to just let him blow off the packet altogether. I don't want him to hand in unfinished work. I don't want him to start fifth grade behind. We'll probably tackle this thing with gusto and complete what we can before school starts Sept. 3.

But I hope it doesn't become a trend in public schools. I hope educators can recognize the value and beauty of leaving summer's rhythm uninterrupted, especially in elementary school. I hope we always leave enough space for the stuff that doesn't get graded.

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



The most productive day of the week? Tomorrow

My column was late again. A spaceship wasn't hovering over Rhode Island. Our house didn't burn down. My computer didn't seize up with "the blue screen of death." None of our kids came down with double pneumonia. I hadn't been arrested for tax fraud.

Nope, I didn't have one decent excuse for my column being late. Truth be told, I'm a hopeless procrastinator. I'm supposed to submit my column to newspaper editors on Thursdays for publication the following week. So every Monday, I know the smart thing would be to write 200 words on Monday and Tuesday, leaving Wednesday for rewrites and editing, and Thursday for polishing and submission.

But that makes way too much sense. "Thursday is sons away," I think to myself at the beginning of each week. "Today, I'll get laundry done, mop the floors, wash the car. Getting chores done will free me up to write more tomorrow."

But between the dog being afraid of the vacuum cleaner, the hourlong call from my mother, the search for missing socks under the kids' beds and that riveting episode of "Flea Market Flip," I had to watch until the end. I barely managed to do the pork chops.

On Tuesday, I wake with a purpose. "I'm going to make some headway on that column ... as soon as I think of an idea. What will I write about this week?" I wonder optimistically. Notebook in hand, I sit on the front porch to let the dog sniff around in the yard while I search for inspiration.

"Hmmm," my inner dialogue sabotages my creative process once again. "The flower beds could really use a bit of weeding." Three hours later, there are bags of garden debris out by the curb, my fingernails are packed with dirt, and I'm on my way to Home Depot for grass seed, tomato cages and annuals.

On Wednesday, I determine that, if I spend the entire day in front of my computer, I can turn out 700 words and still have Thursday for editing. "All I need is a subject," I tell myself. I pour an oversized mug of coffee, and settle in front of the desktop. All morning, I troll the internet looking for topics, current events, some nugget of news that might feed an idea. With a pang of hunger nagging me to stop for a snack, I decide to check Facebook real quick to see what's trending.

Big mistake.

An hour later, I've scrolled all the way down to 2015, got sucked into a comment debate over whether mustard or ketchup is better on hot dogs and watched a string of YouTube videos of dogs with human voiceovers.

I figure I'll switch out the laundry and try again after lunch, but the afternoon brings a case of the sleepies. I convince myself that a 20-minute catnap on the couch will do wonders, but you can probably guess how the day goes from there.

Thursday, I wake up stressed, which should provide adequate motivation to meet my nine-hour deadline. But by noon, I have done everything BUT my column. I organized the junk drawer, swept out the basement, clipped my toenails, put our National Geographic magazines in chronological order and dug the fuzz out of the keyboard with a toothpick.

While standing in front of the open refrigerator, I plan to email my editors to finally let them know I just can't do this anymore. The afternoon passes in hopeless defeat.

But on Friday, I notice that the sky did not fall. The Earth did not implode. I am still breathing. My editors probably haven't even noticed that my column is late. I realize that my fear of failure caused me to create conditions where success is impossible. With the dangerous awareness that I could play this cat and mouse game with myself every week if I so dared, I finally sat down and tapped out this column about procrastination, submitting it the day after the deadline.

Every time I hit send on a column, I promise myself, "I will put an end to this self-destructive habit, and I'll do it first thing — tomorrow."

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari's columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

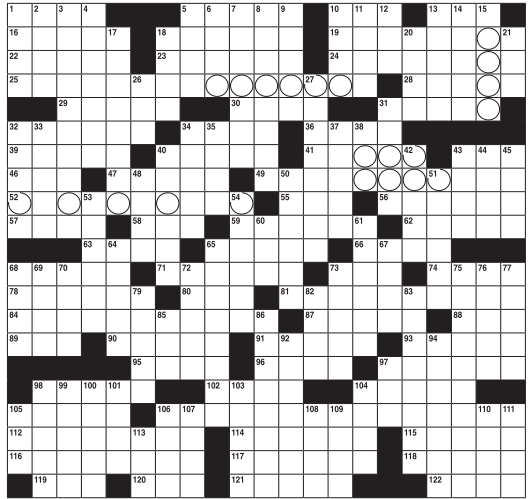
NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

BIRD PLAY

BY ALEX EATON-SALNERS / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Alex Eaton-Salners is an in-house attorney for Western Digital, a technology company headquartered in San Jose, Calif. When he's not creating crosswords, he enjoys escape rooms, reading and spending time in nature. He was the starting point for this puzzle — was 84-Across, with the title coming shortly thereafter. This is Alex's 21st crossword for The Times (not counting two diagrams puzzles) and his first Sunday. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Share on social media
 - 5 Blackens
 - 10 Screen org.?
 - 13 William H. Bonney
 - 14 Billy the Kid
 - 16 Mathematician taught by Bernoulli
 - 18 Most populous nation not in the U.N.
 - 19 Best Actress winner of 1999 and 2004
 - 22 It's just part of the act
 - 23 Surname of Princess Leia
 - 24 Midwest college town
 - 25 "Curiouser and Curiouser ..."
 - 28 Brother
 - 30 Grand onstage
 - 36 Place to swim or work out, informally
 - 31 Business that has cut prices
 - 32 Entertaining
 - 34 Went over the limit, say
 - 36 Major name in petrol
 - 39 Language from which "jackal" and "jasmine" come
 - 40 "La Traviata" composer
 - 41 Jeer
 - 43 Bit on a book jacket
 - 46 Part of a three-in-a-row
 - 47 Greasy in the Pro Football Hall of Fame
 - 49 In-group at school
 - 52 Preach the gospel
 - 53 Rip off
 - 55 Longtime "All Things Considered" host Robert
 - 57 Screenwriter Ephron
 - 58 Anchor, e.g.
 - 59 Chinese liquor made from sorghum
 - 62 "Consequently ..."
 - 63 Verbal alternative to a shoulder tap
 - 65 Beginnings of ideas
 - 66 Internet content typically viewed alone
 - 68 Italian scooter brand
 - 71 What I-Down has that I-Across lacks
 - 73 Part of the resistance?
 - 74 Some pickup info on rideshare apps: Abbr.
 - 78 Scur
 - 80 Man's name that means "my God"
 - 81 What's depicted by the circled letters in 41-/49-Across
 - 84 ... in 52-Across
 - 87 Rehearse a play from start to finish, in theater lingo
 - 88 Swimmer in a Himeji Castle moat
 - 89 Nursery floor hazard
 - 90 Unfamiliar with
 - 91 Informal "What if ...?"
 - 93 Alter, as a manuscript
 - 95 Bird's home
 - 96 Bird's home
 - 97 Places for speakers
 - 98 Common people
 - 102 Close up, say
 - 104 Stylish ballroom dance
 - 105 Investigation
 - 106 ... in 25-Across
 - 112 Brown powder
 - 114 French cake
 - 115 Nashville university, familiarly
 - 116 ... and in 19-Across
 - 117 Go to
 - 118 Princess of Avalon, in children's TV
 - 119 Machiavellian
 - 120 Tape deck button
 - 121 Oboes and saxes, e.g.
 - 122 Aid for a detective
 - 14 Noncapital city whose name means "capital city"
 - 15 City on the Nile
 - 17 As (to)
 - 18 Band with the 1983 No. 1 hit "Africa"
 - 20 Far offshore
 - 21 Kit
 - 26 Dedicator of Iceland's Imagine Peace Tower
 - 27 Ocell
 - 31 Challenges for movers
 - 32 Habitually
 - 33 ... Narnia, 1920s
 - 34 Olympic runner nicknamed the "Flying Finn"
 - 35 Bud of baseball
 - 36 Veep's boss
 - 37 Subject of lessons at an island resort
 - 38 Roman sun god
 - 40 Team at an upscale restaurant
 - 42 Brother
 - 43 Cowboy's home, informally
 - 44 Middle of the month
 - 45 Best Play Tony winner with a geographical name
 - 48 Jellied delicacies
 - 50 Cry from Juliet
 - 51 ... club (unusual show presenter)
 - 54 Chef Lagasse
 - 60 Crossword constructing, e.g. (no, really!)
 - 61 AirPod pairing target
- DOWN**
- 1 Real pain
 - 2 Reaction to pain
 - 3 Berth place
 - 4 Bowling
 - 5 Cause of a supermarket parking mishap
 - 6 Tripping
 - 7 Expected
 - 8 Serving with carrots and celery, maybe
 - 9 Meander
 - 10 Lighter-air link
 - 11 Virtual people
 - 12 Bitter, e.g.
 - 13 Alternative to Times New Roman



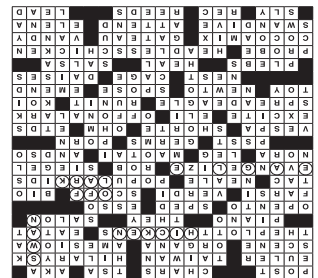
- 64 "Paradise Lost" tempter
- 65 Site of Jesus' crucifixion
- 67 Prefix with directional
- 68 Word with life or flak
- 69 Brand of markers
- 70 See the future with a crystal ball
- 72 Track-meet divisions
- 73 Worth keeping around
- 75 Peacefully protests, as during the national anthem
- 76 Flier on a mission
- 77 Loses traction
- 79 Pristine places
- 82 Fairy-tale after ego
- 83 Crushed in competition
- 85 Pronoun in a picture rebus
- 86 Increase quickly
- 92 Mixing board
- 94 Wrongly, predict, as an election
- 97 Dit's partner
- 98 Places for figureheads
- 99 Not express
- 100 Magazine that named Barack Obama its first-ever Person of the Year (2009)
- 101 Bit of sweat
- 103 "J. _____" (2011 Clint Eastwood biopic)
- 104 Missile first used in the Yom Kippur War
- 105 Non-Macs
- 106 Kind of mind
- 107 Suit
- 108 Number in brackets?
- 109 Without
- 110 Poet _____ St. Vincent Millay
- 111 Diana who was the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida without the aid of shark protection (2013)
- 113 Russian for "peace"

GUNSTON STREET



"Gunston Street" is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

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FACES

Brinkley, Spicer
in 'DWTS' lineup

Christie Brinkley, Hannah Brown of "The Bachelorette" and former White House press secretary Sean Spicer are among the contestants on the next season of "Dancing with the Stars."

ABC announced the celebrity lineup Wednesday for season 28 on "Good Morning America." The season kicks off Sept. 16.

Spicer quit as press secretary just six months into President Donald Trump's presidency. He had a contentious relationship with the press and is remembered for his ridiculed statement that the president's inauguration was the most widely seen in history.

Spicer's addition apparently didn't go down well with co-host Tom Bergeron, who tweeted that he earlier told producers he hoped the new season would be a "joyful respite from our exhausting political climate" and urged them not to have any "divisive bookings."

The show's lineup also includes Lauren Alaina, Ally Brooke, Mary Wilson and athletes Lamar Odom and Ray Lewis. Kate Flannery, Karamo Brown, Kel Mitchell and James Van Der Beek round out the list of celebrity dancers.

In a change from previous seasons, viewers won't learn the celebrity-pro pairings until the season premiere. Professional dancer Tyra Banks' husband returns to the ballroom this year.

Other news

■ A federal jury sided with novelist Nicholas Sparks and the private Christian school he founded in his hometown of New Bern, N.C., dismissing claims by the school's former headmaster that he was unjustly fired, then slandered by the author. Jurors spent about three hours Wednesday before deciding that Sparks, his foundation and Epiphany School of Global Studies didn't injure Saul Hillel Benjamin.

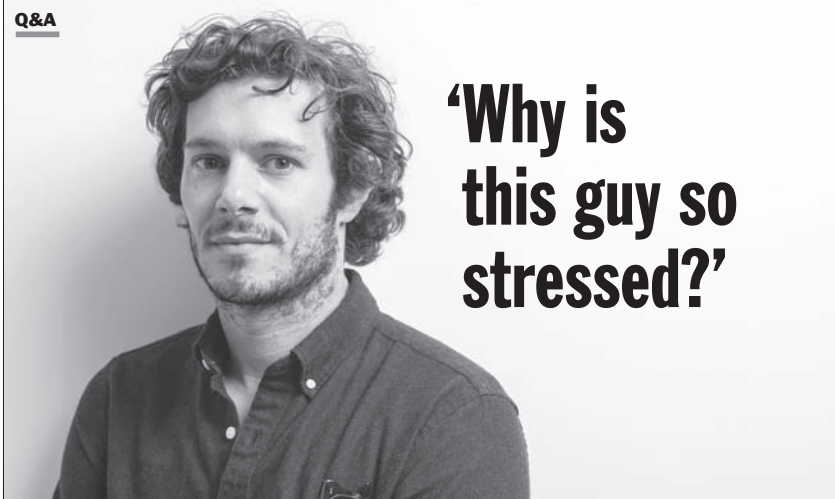
■ "Once Upon a Time In Hollywood" director **Quentin Tarantino** is about to become a father. His representative Katherine Rowe said Tarantino and his wife, Israeli model and singer Daniella Pick, are expecting a baby. No further details were released.

■ **Liam Hemsworth** is seeking a divorce from Miley Cyrus after seven months of marriage. The 29-year-old Australian actor filed for the dissolution of his marriage to the 26-year-old American pop star in Los Angeles Superior Court on Wednesday. The two — an on-again, off-again couple before marriage — announced their separation Aug. 10.

■ After nearly collapsing on-stage recently, country singer **Drake White** has revealed he has a brain condition that disrupts normal blood flow. White told *People* magazine that he's known about the condition since his diagnosis in January and he has been undergoing a series of procedures to cut off blood flow to the affected vessels. He says he's been diagnosed with an aneurysm, a malformation, which is an abnormal tangle of arteries and veins in the brain.

From The Associated Press

Q&A



SCOTT GRIES, INVISION/AP

Adam Brody poses for a portrait on Aug. 12 in New York. In Brody's new movie, "Ready or Not," he's part of an ultra-rich family with an odd — and potentially deadly — marriage ritual.

'Ready or Not' star Adam Brody on his new movie, career and TV viewing habits

By ALICIA RANCILLO
Associated Press

In Adam Brody's new movie "Ready or Not," he's part of an ultra-rich family with an odd marriage ritual: When someone marries into the family, that person must pick a card to play a random game on their wedding night.

The catch: The game could be deadly.

While it's a horror film, the movie is also funny, and Brody's character Daniel adds to that levity.

"He's pretty disgusted with his family — including his wife. And himself. And the ritual. He does undercut the stakes or the seriousness every chance he can get," Brody said.

Brody, whose big break was on the Fox soapy drama "The OC" from 2003 to 2007, has been steadily working in recent years. He appeared in "Shazam!" this year and will soon begin filming the first season of the FX anthology series "Mrs. America" and the indie film "Kid Detective."

Brody also talked about working with his wife and their TV habits and more on filming "Ready or Not" with The Associated Press. The comments have been edited for clarity and length.

AP: "Ready or Not" is a funny horror movie. What was the mood on set?

Brody: We were all sitting in a room be-

tween setups on our phones and talking and getting to know each other in the middle of the night and all hours of the day, so you get sort of punchy. I do think a lot of people who sort of specialize in that dark stuff on screen are some of the lightest people. And then you go on something you think is gonna be a fun comedy and you're like, 'Why is this guy so stressed?'

You appeared in the season finale of your wife Leighton Meester's comedy series "Single Parents" as her ex, and you're returning for season two. Did you like the idea of playing a not-so-nice guy on the show?

It's perfect. It's exactly what I'd want. I get to work with her. I get to be the father of her child, but I'm also an idiot. I just want to be a character. I don't want to go in there and be like a straight man, romantic guy. I want to be a dummy. (laughter)

Are there any TV shows that you two have to watch together?

"Real Time with Bill Maher." We always watch Bill Maher together. That's hard because it's topical and I lose interest if we get to another news cycle and we haven't seen it yet... I love the show. I think it's one of the more honest conversations. First of all, it's funny, it's entertaining, but also I think because of the air of humor and also you can be off-color and can cuss, you get at a greater truth.

What about any reality TV like "The Bachelor"?

We did do a few seasons of "The Bachelor" and liked it. We had our fun with it. I get it on one hand, and on the other hand, they bleach it of all humanity, which is weird. I'm not saying they find the most interesting people, but they're going in a helicopter to the top of a mountain. I'm sure something was said that's funny, you know? Or some interesting observation. Or something about the backstory of somebody's life. They really whittle it down. It's still a big hit, so if it's not broke don't fix it, but I do feel like, you must work so hard to scrub it of any of the personality that's probably there.

Are you comfortable watching your work?

Yeah, but I'd find it so depressing if you asked me to put my best three scenes on something. I'd go, "I can't believe this is the best I've done." But, I can definitely watch myself... To me, acting on screen is no piece-meal. You do it out of order, you do a line here, a look here. I'm so curious about the final product. I'm into the script. I've watched the director's other movies. What music's gonna be in it? I want to see it. I very much love (when) the whole things come together and there's the premiere, let's go watch and see what we all made collectively.

Swift says she plans to re-record her songs

Associated Press

Taylor Swift said she plans to re-record her songs after her catalog was purchased by popular music manager Scooter Braun.

"CBS Sunday Morning" previewed some of its pre-taped interview with Swift, scheduled to air on Aug. 25, on Wednesday. That reporter asks Swift if she would consider re-recording her songs

in order to own the new versions, and Swift said, "Oh yeah."

When asked if that was the plan, Swift replied with: "Yeah, absolutely."

In late June, Braun's Ithaca Holdings announced that it had acquired Big Machine Label Group, which was led by Scott Borchetta and home to Swift's first six albums, including the

Grammy winners for album of the year, 2008's "Fearless" and 2014's "1989."

Swift said last November that she signed with Universal Music Group instead of staying at Big Machine because she knew that re-signing would only result in her not owning her future work.

Braun manages Justin Bieber and Ariana Grande.



EVAN AGOSTINI, INVISION/AP

Fans could soon be treated to new versions of classic songs by Taylor Swift, who also would own the masters.

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OPINION

Trump is the product of a narcissistic media age

By GARY ABERNATHY
Special to The Washington Post

HILLSBORO, Ohio Recently watched the 1980 presidential debate between incumbent Democrat Jimmy Carter and his Republican challenger, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan. The debate is striking in retrospect, not because of memorable zingers (Reagan's "There you go again" barely qualifies), but because of a tone and tenor that today's audiences and TV execs would find downright tedious.

The members of the media panel didn't interrupt the candidates or inject themselves into the debate. The candidates didn't talk over each other, and neither accused his opponent of being a racist, a Russian agent, an anti-Semite, a baby-killer, a communist or a liar.

At one point, after a Reagan critique, Carter responded, "Governor Reagan is making some very misleading and disturbing statements." Similarly, an allegation by Carter brought this rejoinder from Reagan: "The figures that the president has just used about California is a distortion of the situation there." That's as nasty as it got.

The journalists didn't dispute the answers or try to create memorable moments for themselves, instead respecting the public's ability to discern obfuscations. ABC News' Barbara Walters came closest to inserting herself into the fray when she observed, "I would like to say that neither candidate answered specifically the question of a specific policy for dealing with terrorism." But rather than badgering the candidate until she was satisfied, she understood that the event was not about her and moved on.

It wasn't that the political issues of four decades ago didn't lend themselves to the

theatrics we see today. Reagan's proposals and gubernatorial record were regularly criticized as bad for minorities. Carter's inability to free the hostages in Iran left him vulnerable to claims of weakness and, worse, he was once denounced by a rabbi. Carter could have called Reagan a "racist," and Reagan could have ridiculed "Little Jimmy" to no end.

To understand why none of that happened merely requires us to recall the media world of 1980. The first 24-hour cable news channel, CNN, had debuted just a few months before the Carter-Reagan debate and was available in fewer than 2 million homes. There was no MSNBC and no Fox News. There was no Internet, and, therefore, no hate-spewing blogs, no insulting memes, no disgusting tweets, and no fake news manipulated and capable of immediately reaching millions.

But as cable TV and, later, digital platforms flourished, so did the need for revenue. What became evident was that Americans would tune in to watch a good fight, which brought us "Crossfire" on CNN and its manipulative imitators. Other channels pitting left vs. right, each one louder and more aggressive than the one before. Americans were encouraged to choose sides, driving us deeper into our partisan corners.

On the entertainment side, television stars as "mom," "reality" programming, placing seemingly ordinary citizens in voyeuristic and titillating settings, asking viewers to cheer one contestant, jeer the other and cast their votes.

Out of this divisive and salacious swamp climbed the combative, shocking and polarizing Donald Trump, stepping onto a cultural stage constructed almost specifically for him. The billionaire businessman's years of self-promotion and pervasive tabloid presence culminated in his stint as

ringmaster of "The Apprentice," one of the most popular reality shows of all time. As a candidate and president, against a sea of traditional politicians still practicing the old proprieties, Trump flourishes because he says and does that which fits perfectly within the gaudy landscape created by our modern news and entertainment media.

He is the political pioneer of the Narcissistic Age. He cannot be too outrageous, because shocking and offensive are spooned to America as the norm, courtesy of both unscripted and scripted television, which grows bolder with every new series in portraying what was once taboo language and scandalous behavior.

Pundits wonder why millions of Americans aren't shocked by Trump. The shouting demagogues on cable news who bemoan our polarized politics and our lowered standards, and the producers and entertainers in Hollywood who curse his name, should come to terms with the fact that Trump is the progeny of their own talents and efforts.

Issues won't decide the 2020 election. In presidential years, millions of ballots are cast by Americans who are ambivalent about politics and hang up on pollsters but who get pushed to the polls by the get-out-the-vote machines. When uninterested citizens feel compelled to vote next year, which candidate will once again be most comfortable and familiar to them based on their daily media intake?

After watching a recent Trump rally, a friend who cares little about politics smiled and said, "You have to hand it to him. He's got something." Chalk up another vote for Trump.

Gary Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Washington Post, is a freelance writer and former newspaper editor based in Hillsboro, Ohio.

Biden should own his gaffes and do more public events

By DOYLE MCMAUS
Los Angeles Times

ONCE sat next to Joe Biden at an event where one of the speakers committed a classic gaffe: He unintentionally uttered an obscenity into a live microphone. The offending speaker wasn't Biden; it was me.

"What do I do now?" I asked the former vice president, figuring he was the world's leading authority on misstatements.

"Own it," he advised. "That's all you can do."

For much of the summer, the dominant narrative about Biden's presidential campaign has been about gaffes, including his inartful comparison of poor kids to "white kids" and his garbled line in a stump speech, "We choose truth over facts!"

But verbal missteps aren't the real problem for Biden. He's been doing that for years; he owns them, even jokes about them, and moves on. Many voters seem willing to move on with him.

The real problem is that Biden's age next year — he'll be almost 78 when voters go to the polls next year — worries about his gaffes have become a proxy for a more dangerous question: After almost 50 years in national politics, is he still mentally and physically capable of handling the rigors of the White House?

There's no question that there's a concern about Biden's age," a Democratic strategist who isn't affiliated with a candidate told me. "He looks and sounds like he's from a different era than almost everyone else on that stage."

believe he is mentally fit to be president?" Trump asked in a tweet. (This, it must be noted, from a man whose secretary of state once used an expletive when describing him as a "moron.")

Aside from the occasional verbal stumble, Biden looks and sounds at least as capable as Trump, who is sometimes barely coherent himself. But it was a preview of the attacks Biden will face if he wins the Democratic nomination.

That's why there's one remedy for his wobbling campaign: He's got to charge straight into the problem and own it.

If the question is whether Biden can withstand public scrutiny, he should be doing more public events, not fewer.

That's what his campaign says he'll do, beginning with appearances in Iowa and New Hampshire. They are spinning all this as a plus, saying Biden isn't over-packed, that he's always spoken his mind, unfiltered, and that's why voters love him.

More difficult, perhaps, is a different dimension of the age problem: Biden's incapable identification with Democratic policies of the past, and his obvious tendency to remind voters of legislation he sponsored in the 1970s and political compromises he brokered in the 1990s.

Biden often says that, if elected, he thinks he can persuade Republicans to abandon scorched-earth policies and return to the bipartisan center of the last century.

"There's an awful lot of really good Republicans out there," he said at a fundraiser in Massachusetts last weekend. "I get in trouble for saying that with Democrats."

Even some of his supporters winced. That's a way of out sync with what many primary voters feel: By all he's done in the past, so he's unlikely to abandon the theme.

To Biden and his aides, "authenticity" is everything.

Biden has one underappreciated strength: His support in the polls, especially among older voters, has been remarkably durable so far despite all the fretting about his stumbles.

Before he announced his candidacy, he had the support of about 29% of Democratic voters, according to the average of national polls compiled by the Real Clear Politics website. After he announced, his support spiked to 41%; after a weak performance in the first Democratic debate, it fell to 26%; now it's back where he started, at roughly 29%.

But much of that support remains tentative. In a poll released last week by the Pew Research Center, 53% of voters who named Biden as their first choice said they were also enthusiastic about one or more of the other candidates, suggesting they could change allegiance.

He's still the front-runner, but his lead is far from commanding. If he stumbles, there's still time for another moderate to move up in the polls. Democratic strategists name Kamala Harris, Pete Buttigieg and Cory Booker as the three most likely to succeed in that scenario.

Biden has passed two initial tests of resilience. He's shown that he can take a punch and recover, as he did after Harris won the Iowa caucus, but he's still missing school segregation.

And he's shown that he knows how to recover from a gaffe — by owning it. After all, he's had almost a half-century of experience.

Doyle McMaus is a Washington columnist for the Los Angeles Times and director of the journalism program at Georgetown University.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

Commissioner's words after officer was fired were on point

The New York Times
As he announced that he was firing the police officer who had put Eric Garner in the chokehold that led to his death, New York City's police commissioner, James O'Neill, sent the country's largest police force a message: You may not think I'm on your side, but I am.

As a former beat officer, O'Neill said the decision to fire Officer Daniel Pantaleo was difficult. "I've been a cop a long time," he said at a news conference at Police Headquarters. "And if I was still a cop, I'd probably be mad at me — 'You're not looking out for us.' But I am."

It was a powerful message from one of the most prominent law enforcement officials in the country: Police officers who violate the public trust must be held accountable, for the good of the public and the police force.

O'Neill said he had determined that Pantaleo's actions during the Garner case made him unfit to serve, despite a "commendable service record" of nearly 300 arrests.

Garner's fatal encounter with the police on a Staten Island street in 2014 helped to propel the Black Lives Matter movement, in which protesters across the country took to the streets demanding accountability in the killing of black Americans by police officers.

New York police officers said Garner, 43, resisted when they tried to arrest him on charges of selling untaxed cigarettes.

But millions of Americans watched a video of Garner's struggle with Pantaleo and something else saw: an unarmed man struggling for his life.

They saw Pantaleo's arm wrapped tightly around Garner's neck, a chokehold banned by the Police Department in 1993. They heard Garner's desperate cry for help as he pleaded, "I can't breathe," again and again until faintly silent.

Yet, for five years, justice was elusive. In 2014, a Staten Island grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo on criminal charges. Justice Department officials in the Obama administration weighed civil rights charges for years but left the case mired in inaction. On July 16, one day before the five-year statute of limitations expired, Attorney General William Barr ordered the case be dropped.

All the while, Pantaleo continued to serve on the force.

The city's police union responded to the commissioner's decision on Monday with its own form of resistance. "We are urging all New York City police officers to proceed with the utmost caution in this new reality, in which they may be deemed 'reckless' just for doing their job," the Police Benevolent Association president, Patrick Lynch, said in a statement, appearing to call for a new kind of vigilance. "We hold our officers, but we cannot and will not do so by needlessly jeopardizing our careers or personal safety."

In the past, New York has been too reluctant to discipline its police officers, with grave consequences. Particularly troubling is the persistent suggestion of our officers rarely face discipline for using chokeholds, even though the move is banned.

Garner's family has suffered immensely. His daughter Erica Garner died in 2017 of a heart attack after years of activism in the wake of her father's death. Garner's stepfather, Benjamin, died of a heart attack last month. Garner's mother, Gwen Carr,



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE/AP

A female condor looks out over Zion National Park, Utah. Seven environmental and animal protection groups on Wednesday filed the first lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's recent rollbacks to the Endangered Species Act.

has been tireless in seeking justice for her son. It is a small mercy, at least, that she has seen something approaching justice done.

The lack of accountability in Garner's death has also remained an open wound in the city, adding to a sense of grievance against the police among black and Hispanic New Yorkers even as crime rates were falling to record lows.

O'Neill seems to understand this. He said Monday that every time he sees the video of Garner, he wants to intervene to change the confrontation from turning tragic.

"Every time I watched the video, I say to myself, as probably all of you do, to Mr. Garner, 'Don't do it, comply,'" he said. "To Officer Pantaleo, 'Don't do it.'"

But O'Neill said that Garner's death "must have a consequence."

It must. And, after too many years, it finally has.

Endangered Species Act was misused, needed this revision

The Wall Street Journal
Perhaps you've been reading that the Trump administration wants to make it easier to eliminate polar bears, spotted owls and other species from the face of the earth. As ever in Donald Trump's Washington, the reality is different, so allow us to explain.

The uproar concerns a proposed new rule to revise some practices under the 1973 Endangered Species Act. For all the praise liberals shower on that law, it has achieved far less than advertised. A 2018 report from The Heritage Foundation's Robert Gordon found that since 1973 the ESA has helped to recover only 40 species, and nearly half of those were mistakenly listed in the first place.

Meanwhile, the law has become a legal weapon to strip property rights and block millions of acres from private development. Congress ought to rewrite the ESA before it breaks a partisan impasse. So this month Interior Secretary David Bernhardt tried to clarify regulation under the law to prevent abuses.

The new rule restores Congress' original two-tiered approach, killing the Fish and Wildlife Service's "blanket rule" that treated "endangered" and "threatened" species alike. This will devote scarce government dollars — and landowner attention — to the species most at risk. It will also provide states more flexibility to assist species that are struggling though not seriously endangered.

The new rules clarify vague terms such as "the foreseeable future" to mean only as far as the government can "reasonably determine" a danger of extinction. This will make it harder for activists to use claims of vague future climate damage to declare many more species endangered.

And the rules remind regulators they

must use the same five criteria in deciding whether to delist a species as they did when listing one — destruction of habitat or range; overutilization; disease; inadequate regulation; or other natural or manmade factors. This will guard against special interests that move the goalposts every time a recovered population is proposed to be cleared.

Another reform would limit the use of "critical habitat" designations that tie up tens of millions of acres of U.S. land. The rules reinstate a requirement that agencies first evaluate acreage that contain the at-risk species before considering new unoccupied areas. Agencies also must prove that unoccupied critical habitat contains "one or more of the physical or biological features essential to the species' conservation."

The goal of all this is to return to a rules-driven, scientific approach to species management. (Seven environmental and animal protection groups on Wednesday filed the first lawsuit), but the Interior Department will have a strong defense because its new rule adheres closely to the text of the law.

Many struggling species live on private land, and the cooperation of owners is crucial for recovery. Environmental laws and regulations should encourage stewardship, rather than penalize private partners. To the extent the rules improve private-public cooperation, the key deer and sage grouse will benefit. Which is supposed to be the point of the law.

Trump's not all in on passing new gun control legislation

The Washington Post
For a moment, it seemed as though what was usually assumed in Washington could no longer be taken for granted. President Donald Trump was promising "very meaningful background checks" in the wake of two gruesome mass shootings. He insisted that congressional Republicans would "lead the charge" for new gun legislation, which would have been a tectonic shift in the politics of guns that only sustained pressure from a figure such as Trump could possibly have produced.

Then the hope faded. Speaking at a press conference on Sunday, the president came on background checks, insisted that he is "very concerned with the Second Amendment" and repeated showman Republican talking points. "It's the people that pull the trigger. It's not the gun that pulls the trigger," he said. "They have bipartisan common sense working on background checks and various other things. And we'll see. I don't want people to forget that this is a mental-health problem. I don't want them to forget that because it is. It's a mental-health problem."

Reporters asked him to clarify his stance on support for universal background

checks. "I'm not saying anything," he said. "I'm saying Congress is going to be reporting back to me with ideas. And they'll come in from Democrats and Republicans. And I'll look at it very strongly. But just remember, we already have a lot of background checks, OK?"

If the president is expecting a Republican Senate to send him gun-control bill without his strong, public backing, he will be waiting a long time. This is the same party that blocked minimal gun-safety reforms after a shooter murdered 26 children and staffers at Sandy Hook Elementary School — and after every other gun-related atrocity since.

Other nations have mental-health problems, even people intent on inflicting harm and violent video games. What distinguishes the United States is that American society is saturated with a wide variety of easily accessible guns — and the result is that mass shootings have become almost a part of the country's landscape. The checks, but they don't apply to many firearms sales and transfers at gun shows and other places. As for the background checks that are conducted, federal authorities only have so much time to complete them before gun sales go through, meaning that the checks are often weapons merely because the clock runs out.

Practically no one thinks this situation is reasonable. Some 90 percent of Americans favor universal background checks. Strong majorities, including among those key to GOP victory, favor other gun reforms, such as a "red flag" law that allows judges to confiscate weapons from those at risk of committing imminent harm, an extension of the time federal authorities have to conduct background checks, and a ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Even these bare-minimum reforms seem, once again, out of reach — thanks in part to a president who apparently lacks the courage to champion measures he recognizes as necessary.

Planned Parenthood's decision forced by outrageous rules

San Francisco Chronicle
Planned Parenthood made a difficult but principled decision to reject federal grants that came with an untenable condition: that participants in the program known as Title X must not refer women for abortion care.

The Trump administration's new rules on Title X funding represent an outrageous intrusion of politics into reproductive decisions. Planned Parenthood has always maintained that patients should be presented with a full range of medical options. This also was the federal policy until now.

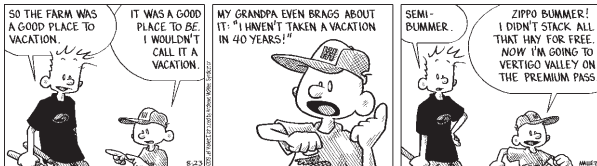
Under the new rules, organizations that receive Title X funding would be able to discuss abortion with patients, but could not refer them to an abortion provider or even let them know where the procedure is available. The Trump administration is layering additional requirements including birth control, pregnancy testing and the discussion of abortion with patients and forcing clinics to financially and physically separate themselves from facilities that provide abortions.

One of the effects of the new policy is that it opens Title X funding to faith-based or ideological groups that do not want to let patients about all reproductive options, including abortion.

Planned Parenthood, the largest recipient of Title X funding at \$60 million a year, must now scramble for other revenue sources in order to maintain services such as birth control, pregnancy testing and the screening for cancer and sexually transmitted diseases it provides to more than 1.5 million women each year.

This policy needs to be reversed, whether by legal action (California has joined other states in a lawsuit) or congressional action. Congress has a duty to be generous to play politics with women's health.

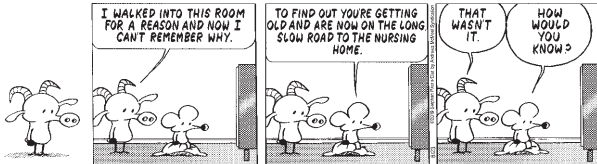
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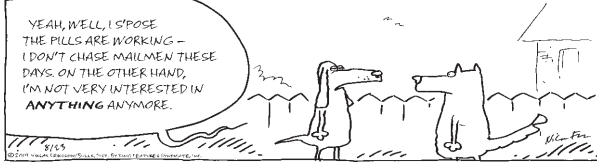
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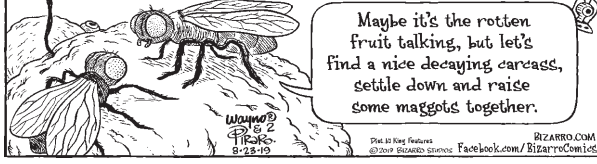
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Beetle Bailey



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Eugene Sheffer Crossword

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- 45 Strainer
- 47 Eggy quaff
- 48 Parsley-like herb
- 52 Sauce source
- 53 "Over There" composer
- 54 A Gershwin brother
- 55 Sixth sense
- 56 Glistened
- 57 Ninny
- 58 Asian holiday

DOWN

- 1 Some shelter adoptees
- 2 Wilt
- 3 Burn slightly
- 4 Pivot line
- 5 Predicament
- 6 "Old MacDonald" refrain
- 7 Carrots' mates
- 8 Hostel
- 9 Media mogul
- 10 Soul, to Camus
- 11 Damascus
- 12 Cairo's nation
- 13 Its cap.
- 17 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 21 Oafs
- 23 Slow mover
- 24 Quirky
- 25 Poseidon's home
- 26 Scrap
- 28 White House nickname
- 30 Request
- 31 Swelled head
- 32 Soap unit
- 33 Inseparable
- 36 Wreck
- 37 Frugal sorts
- 40 TV, radio, etc.
- 42 Map within a map
- 43 Antlered animal
- 44 Logical
- 46 Historic periods
- 48 IV measures
- 49 La-la lead-in
- 50 Plato's P
- 51 007 creator
- 52 Fleming

Answer to Previous Puzzle

REF	MEMO	OAHU
ARA	AMOK	PRES
PAMP	LONA	EARLS
ISO	OPENBAR	
BYLINE	INS	
EMI	EOS	DEGAS
ACAI	NOW	AARP
DARTH	BIB	RTE
SOS	GOADED	
RIPO	OPEN	ODE
ASAP	DIAMONDS	
RIDE	ELBE	III
ASSN	REAR	AMP

8-23

CRYPTOQUIP

V I T J W W Q R K Q U V Q R
 U Q A V J X K X M Q X Q Z Z J Q E W X D
 I D Y V R M J Q U J R H D T E Y
 O J H E Q W W V N V J Y Q W
 Q O V A Y D N Z A Q K.
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN I SEE
 SOMETHING REALLY CUTE AND GET THE URGE
 TO EMBELLISH IT, I CRY "HOW ADORNABLE!"
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals V

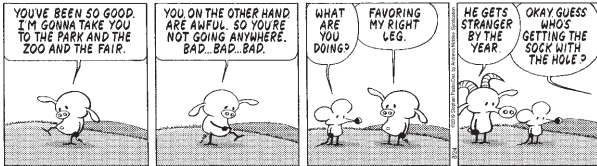
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



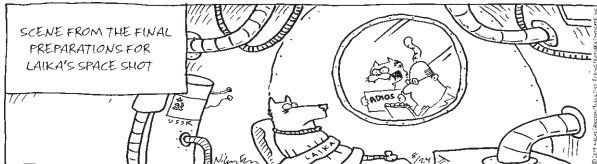
Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18				19					20			
			21						22			
23	24	25			26				27	28	29	
30					31				32			
33					34				35			
					36				37			
38	39	40					41			42	43	44
45					46				47			
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

ACROSS

- 1 Microwave
- 4 Oil cartel
- 8 Give up
- 12 Suffix with cash
- 13 Facts and figures
- 14 Yankee nickname
- 15 Gun-lobby org.
- 16 Old radio part
- 17 Saturn feature
- 18 Inherit some cash, say
- 21 Noshed
- 22 Filch
- 23 Street-smart
- 26 Deep hole
- 27 Group of whales
- 30 Party cheese
- 31 Spell-off
- 32 Jupiter's wife
- 33 Wanted-poster abbr.
- 34 Tire filler
- 35 "Haystacks" painter
- 36 Stir-fry pan
- 37 Weep
- 38 Suddenly start serenading, say
- 45 "Das Kapital" author
- 46 Lunch hour
- 47 Vast expanse
- 48 Sommelier's suggestion
- 49 Cruise stop

- 50 Science room
- 51 Santa's ride
- 52 Molt
- 53 Hosp. areas

DOWN

- 1 Galvanizing matter
- 2 Sleek, in car lingo
- 3 Baby carriage
- 4 Strange thing
- 5 "Common Sense" pamphleteer
- 6 Coup d' —
- 7 Heat unit
- 8 Ersatz chocolate
- 9 Ireland
- 10 Finito
- 11 Jittery
- 19 Roof overhang
- 20 Witticism
- 23 Govt. lender
- 24 Noah's boat
- 25 By way of
- 26 Apiece
- 27 Bit of wit
- 28 Small bill
- 29 Speck
- 31 Skimpy swimsuits
- 32 Want-ad listings
- 34 Fine, at NASA
- 35 Daydreamed
- 36 Like shiny floors
- 37 Stylish wrap
- 38 Upscale autos
- 39 Banister
- 40 Sea eagle
- 41 Snack
- 42 Capital on a fjord
- 43 Close
- 44 Yaks

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	D	S	A	P	E	P	I	T	A	S
U	R	I	X	I	E	N	E	M	I	
T	O	N	I	C	E	L	A	N	D	E
T	O	G	S	K	I	E	S			
S	P	E	C	L	O	T	S	O	S	O
				L	I	E	S	A	N	D
E	B	O	O	K			S	A	D	A
G	A	N	D	E	R		S	K	I	
O	R	E	S		U	M	A		L	I
				S	I	E	V	E	N	O
C	O	R	I	A	N	D	E	R	S	O
C	O	H	A	N		I	R	A	E	S
S	H	O	N	E		A	S	S	T	E

8-24

CRYPTOQUIP

SFDOQX MC FD FKKQXOBI

XQFIRBMD CXMN GFKABDO

FNMDO RMM NFDL SFBTLKBAQ

CKMGQXT: FD FTRQX-XBTA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I GUESS ANY AVIAN VARIETY THAT APPEALS TO GOD IN HEAVEN COULD BE CLASSIFIED AS A BIRD OF PRAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals L

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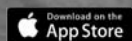
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Scoreboard

American League

East Division			
	W	L	Pct
New York	83	45	.648
Tampa Bay	74	54	.578
Boston	67	61	.523
Toronto	52	77	.403
Baltimore	41	86	.323
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Minnesota	77	50	.606
Cleveland	74	53	.583
Chicago	57	69	.452
Kansas City	45	82	.354
Detroit	38	86	.306
West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Houston	81	47	.633
Oakland	73	53	.579
Texas	63	65	.492
Los Angeles	63	67	.485
Seattle	54	74	.422

National League

East Division			
	W	L	Pct
Atlanta	76	52	.594
Washington	69	57	.548
New York	66	60	.524
Philadelphia	66	60	.524
Miami	49	80	.380
Central Division			
	W	L	Pct
Chicago	68	58	.540
St. Louis	67	58	.536
Milwaukee	65	62	.512
Cincinnati	60	66	.476
Pittsburgh	58	68	.461
West Division			
	W	L	Pct
Los Angeles	84	44	.656
Arizona	64	64	.500
San Francisco	63	64	.496
San Diego	59	67	.468
Colorado	58	69	.457

Wednesday's games

Tampa Bay 7, Seattle
Chicago White Sox 4, Minnesota 0
Baltimore 8, Kansas City 1
Detroit 2, Houston 1
Texas 8, L.A. Angels 7
Oakland 6, N.Y. Yankees 4
Cincinnati 4, San Diego 2
Colorado 7, Arizona 2
Washington 11, Pittsburgh 1
Atlanta 5, Miami 0
L.A. Dodgers 2, Toronto 1, 10 innings
N.Y. Mets 4, Cleveland 3, 10 innings
Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 3, 8 innings
Philadelphia 5, Boston 3
Chicago Cubs 12, San Francisco 11

Thursday's games

Kansas City at Boston, sus.
Tampa Bay at Baltimore
Cleveland at N.Y. Mets
Detroit at Houston
Texas at Chicago White Sox
N.Y. Yankees at Oakland
Toronto at L.A. Dodgers
San Francisco at Chicago Cubs
Washington at Pittsburgh
Miami at Atlanta
Colorado at St. Louis

Friday's games

Tampa Bay (TBD) at Baltimore (Blach 0-1)
Kansas City (Junis 8-11) at Cleveland (Plesac 6-4)
Detroit (TBD) at Minnesota (Berrios 10-6)
L.A. Angels (TBD) at Houston (Gremle 13-4)
Texas (Lynn 14-8) at Chicago White Sox (Coxie 2-6)
Toronto (Thornton 4-8) at Seattle (Sheffield 0-0)
Washington (Sanchez 7-6) at Chicago Cubs (TBD)
Cincinnati (DeScafolani 8-7) at Pittsburgh (Keller 1-2)
Atlanta (Foltynewicz 4-5) at N.Y. Mets (deGrom 7-7)
Philadelphia (Velasquez 5-7) at Miami (Noesi 0-3)
Colorado (Kelly 9-12) at Milwaukee (Lyles 7-8)
Colorado (TBD) at St. Louis (Flaherty 7-6)
Boston (Rodriguez 14-5) at San Diego (Padack 7-6)
N.Y. Yankees (TBD) at L.A. Dodgers (TBD)

Saturday's games

Tampa Bay at Baltimore
Detroit at Minnesota
Kansas City at Cleveland
L.A. Angels at Houston
Texas at Chicago White Sox
Toronto at Seattle
Washington at Chicago Cubs
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Dodgers
Cincinnati at Miami
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh
L.A. Angels at Houston
San Francisco at Oakland
Boston at San Diego
Colorado at Chicago Cubs
San Francisco at Oakland
Toronto at Seattle
Boston at San Diego
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Dodgers

Calendar

Aug. 31 — Last day to be contracted to an organization and be eligible for post-season play.
Sept. 1 — Active rosters expand to 40 players.



KATHY WILLEMS/AP

Bay Area native CC Sabathia of the New York Yankees is back on the West Coast for the last time before retiring at the end of the season.

Sabathia relishes final trip home

Big left-hander returns to Bay Area one last time before calling it quits

By JANIE McCauley
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — CC Sabathia spent a day off handing out his 50,000th backpack to first-graders and second-graders at home in Vallejo as kids returned to school.

The veteran major league has been doing thoughtful things in Vallejo for years, and this marked the 11th year he has donated backpacks. On Monday, however, he got to give them out on the first day at every elementary school for the first time.

The larger-than-life lefty certainly could relate to all the crying kinder gardeners as they parted from their parents at drop-off. That used to be him in tears as a boy, and he still remembers it well, noting, "I was super spoiled as a kid."

Sabathia's farewell in the Bay Area means so much as he returns to his roots for the final time during the regular season before the 39-year-old pitcher heads into retirement.

"This is always going to be a special trip to me," said Sabathia, who will conclude his career following 19 big league seasons, the last 11 with the New York Yankees. "Just being here with my family, my kids getting to see Vallejo and hang out in Vallejo,

my kids are there now, so it's always a special time for us."

As soon as Rickey Henderson walked onto the field before Tuesday's series opener against the Athletics, Sabathia instructed his 15-year-old son, "Little C, get up, get up, right now!" to capitalize on a photo opportunity with the Hall of Famer, someone who "was a huge inspiration."

"I don't think I ever would want to face him. He was like that much of an idol for me," Sabathia said Wednesday. "Just him being so fast, the way he hit balls, the way he pimped the homers. That was all appealing to me being an inner-city kid playing baseball. That's the way we played watching him. It was awesome to see that."

Sabathia was reminded he sat court-side at Golden State games in Oakland long before the Warriors became a dynasty.

"That's what people don't know, people always hate on me," he said, chuckling. "People always hate on me because I was court-side before the Warriors got hot."

He plans to be back for Raiders games this season and to see the Warriors at their new arena, Chase Center, in San Francisco. His relatives still live in Vallejo and Sabathia will regularly bring his four children here though they live full-time in New Jersey.



FRED THORNHILL, THE CANADIAN PRESS/AP

New York's Gio Urshela, right, celebrates with C.C. Sabathia after the Yankees defeated the Toronto Blue Jays 12-6 on Aug. 8.

While Sabathia never received a formal offer from San Francisco in free agency before the 2009 season, he said the sides came close to negotiating terms. He grew up an A's fan but always figured he might end up playing on the other side of the bay with the Giants.

In December 2008, Yankees general manager Brian Cashman left the winter meetings in Las Vegas for a quick trip to Oakland, then took a car service to Sabathia's home in Vallejo and added a seventh year to the offer that was already on the table from about a month earlier to the 2006 AL Cy Young Award winner.

"It would've been cool, yeah," he said of playing in San Francisco, "but this was the best thing for me, being able to come to New York, having a chance to win every year, being in the pinstripes has been a lot of fun. It's my dad's dream, so I'm glad I got a chance to live it out."

It might have been cool to pitch once more in Oakland, too. Not that Sabathia campaigned to take the Coliseum mound one last time. Sabathia returned from the injured list Sunday against Cleveland after missing 21 games with inflammation in his right knee.

"It's team," manager Aaron Boone said. "He lives that. He always has."

GOLF/AUTO RACING

Commentary

FedEx Cup still more payday than prestige

By DOUG FERGUSON

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The FedEx Cup is still about the money.

Whoever wins this week at the Tour Championship gets \$15 million, more than Greg Norman's career earnings on the PGA Tour.

The FedEx Cup might one day be as much about prestige.

Tiger Woods (twice), Vijay Singh and Jim Furyk won the first four FedEx Cup titles, and all four will be in the World Golf Hall of Fame if they're not in already. The last four winners were Justin Rose, Justin Thomas, Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth. That's good company to keep.

The FedEx Cup was never about major championships.

Woods is absent from East Lake, this time not by choice but because he didn't qualify.

It stands out because of his last two victories, Nos. 80 and 81, both in Georgia.

The first was the Tour Championship, the most electric moment in golf all of last year. Woods won at East Lake to cap a remarkable return from four back surgeries, a DUI arrest stemming from his reliance on painkillers and his own fears that he would never compete again.

Memories would be a lot stronger if he were here. Instead, he becomes the seventh player to win the Tour Championship and not be eligible to return the following year during the FedEx Cup era.

Should he be at East Lake?

It seems that way because of his other victory, this one in April at Augusta National, as captivating as any of his 15 majors. Woods said Sunday at Medinah when his season officially ended that he was disappointed and he wished he could be at East Lake. But he hardly was torn up over it, for one reason.

"I'm the one with the green jacket," he said of winning the Masters.

He also has company.

British Open champion Shane Lowry didn't make it to East Lake either. He has a claret jug at home in Ireland to console him.

This is the fifth time in 13 years of the FedEx Cup that at least two major champions were at the final event, usually with extenuating circumstances involved. Five major champions who didn't make it to East Lake were not PGA Tour members, three of them in 2010 — Graeme McDowell, Louis Oosthuizen and Martin Kaymer.

Given their stature, it would seem the majors should get more FedEx Cup points than a measly 20% bump. For example, Woods received 600 points for winning that little invitational at Augusta National. That's only 100 points more than Kevin Tway got for winning the Safeway Open.

Could it be more? Sure. Does it need to be? Not necessarily.

Would anyone even be talking about major champions not being at East Lake if not for Woods being one of them?

Because while the PGA Tour has drastically changed its season with the FedEx Cup format, what hasn't changed is what matters — winning majors. The reward for capturing a Grand Slam event is worth far more than having a tee time at East Lake and a chance to win \$15 million.

Besides, it's not like Woods and Lowry didn't have the opportunity.

Woods played only six times after he won the Masters — three times he failed to make the cut, the other three he was a combined 39 shots behind the leader — and finished the season with 12 events.

Lowry played 14 times, a product of having only conditional status at the start of the year. He had middle-of-the-pack performances at two playoff events. He finished 57 points short of East Lake, which equates to being two shots better at Liberty National and at Medinah.

"I think what it says is that it's really hard to get to Atlanta and the Tour Championship," PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan said. "You've got to play exceedingly well over the course of an entire season. And with volatility, there's risk."



PHOTOS BY MATT SLOCUM/AP

Josef Newgarden drives into Turn 1 during an IndyCar Series race at Pocono Raceway. High-profile crashes during IndyCar races there means the race may not return for 2020.

Racetrack on the rocks

Pocono-IndyCar marriage may be headed for divorce

By the numbers

5

Number of cars involved in an opening-lap crash Sunday in the IndyCar Series race at Pocono Speedway.

2015

The year driver Justin Wilson died of a head injury at Pocono Raceway after he hit debris from another car.

SOURCE: Associated Press

In the Pits
by JENNA FRYER • AP

Scott Speed, a former NASCAR and Formula One driver, broke three vertebrae on a hard landing during qualifying last weekend for the American Rally-Cross Championship Nitro World Games in Salt Lake City. He has been hospitalized in Utah.

Speed's injury didn't get nearly the same attention as an IndyCar crash two days later at Pocono Raceway that reignited a debate on the compatibility of the Pennsylvania track and the open wheel series.

Justin Wilson died of a head injury in 2015 when he was hit by debris from another car at Pocono. Robert Wickens suffered a spinal cord injury that has confined him to a wheelchair when his car sailed into the fence last year.

Then came Sunday's opening lap debacle, a five-car accident that sent one driver to the hospital, altered the championship race and put Pocono square in the crosshairs of critics who don't want Indy cars hurtling around the 2.5-mile oval at 200 mph.

Felix Rosenqvist complained of back pain and a headache after his car hit the fence in the crash. He was released from the hospital and is awaiting IndyCar approval to race again this weekend.

"Definitely feel lucky escaping without any serious injuries after visiting the catch fence there," the Swedish rookie posted on social media.

The other four drivers involved in Sunday's crash were not hurt — Alexander Rossi's quest to win

Scott Dixon said "I feel bad for Pocono" and pointed to on-track driver error for its spate of spectacular crashes.

"If you look at Justin or Robbie, those can happen anywhere," Dixon said. "I think the drivers in a lot of situations can do a better job to help that situation."

What happened Sunday began even before the green flag. Replays clearly show multiple drivers fanning across the track in a frantic bid to pick up positions before the green even waved. Ryan Hunter-Reay, who wound up with Takuma Sato's car on top of his, cited the importance of track position and difficulty in passing for the over-aggressive start.

When Hunter-Reay, Sato and Rossi wound up three-wide flying into the second turn, something bad was bound to happen. It was too early and no 500-mile race has ever been won on the first lap. Most think former Indy 500 winner Sato was egregiously at fault, but Sato thinks Rossi raced too hard and no matter where the actual blame falls everyone could have and should have raced smarter at the start of the race.

Now comes the renewed debate about Pocono.

Walking away would probably be the smart financial move for Pocono. The track was such an important part of open wheel racing through the 1970s and 1980s but can't be breaking even as it hosts IndyCar in its proud effort to support the series.

But there aren't any other ovals courting IndyCar right now, and the loss of Pocono would leave the series with only four races not on street or road courses (the 2020 schedule has not been announced).

One of those tracks is Indianapolis Motor Speedway, where there have been 73 fatalities since 1909, including 42 drivers. Nobody wants to drop that race from the schedule.



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

Golf fans pause at the FedEx Cup sign on the ninth fairway during practice for the Tour Championship in Atlanta on Wednesday.

NFL

Niners' Alexander back to full health

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — Kwon Alexander is ready to show why he was the prime target for the San Francisco 49ers when free agency started last March.

Alexander has worked his way back from a knee surgery that ended his final year in Tampa Bay in October and is set to get on the field for the first time since the injury when the Niners visit the Kansas City Chiefs in preseason game Saturday night.

"There's a lot of excitement right now. I have to calm down a bit and take it day to day but I'll be ready Saturday," Alexander said Wednesday. "I've been working hard, working my butt off. It's time to go."

The 49ers have been patient with the linebacker this summer as he got back up to speed. They eased him into team drills and held him out of the first two exhibition games.

They were less patient with Alexander last March, when they moved quickly to lock him up with a four-year contract worth up to \$54 million on the first day teams were allowed to contact free agents from other organizations.

Alexander's deal was the most lucrative contract the Niners gave to any free agent and he is being counted on to bring speed and playmaking to the defense, along with No. 2 overall pick Nick Bosa at defensive end and trade acquisition Dee Ford at the other defensive end.

Alexander will team up with second-year middle linebacker Fred Warner in the middle of San

Francisco's defense.

"Kwon has brought a lot of energy," cornerback Richard Sherman said. "He's brought consistency, he's energetic, he's a hitter. He's all over the place. He's loud. You can hear him no matter where you go. You love to have him out there. He's a really smart, heady player. It's good for Fred, too, because Fred is not the most vocal player and they kind of complement each other."

Alexander joins a defense that set an NFL record for futility last season with just seven takeaways, including a record-low two interceptions. Alexander has six career interceptions, six forced fumbles, two fumble recoveries and seven sacks in 46 games.

His most productive season came in 2016 when he led the NFL with 108 solo tackles and also had 12 tackles for loss. He has averaged 8.3 total tackles per game in his career, the sixth most in the league since 2015 among players with at least 25 games played. But Alexander also led the NFL with 67 missed tackles from 2015-17, according to SportRadar.

His biggest attribute is his sideline-to-sideline speed, which took time to return following surgery but has been evident on the practice field the past couple of weeks.

"The range, the speed, all of it, just his fluidity keeps getting better and better," defensive coordinator Robert Saleh said. "It's no pressure for him to go and be great, an All-Pro in his first pre-season action. It's just go out there, get his game reps in and get back comfortable playing football."



SETH WENIG/AP

Jets running back Le'Veon Bell sat out last season in a contract dispute with Pittsburgh and signed a four-year, \$52.5 million contract with New York in March.

Bell ready to hit and run

Jets running back says he's looking for a some contact after his layoff

By DENNIS WASZAK JR.
Associated Press

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. — Le'Veon Bell wants his teammates to hit him. Nothing too hard or violent, but just enough for him to feel it.

The New York Jets running back isn't playing during the preseason, so he's doing whatever he can to be ready for football when the regular season starts.

"Give me a little something," he tells some of the veterans on defense. "Go for the ball, things like that, just so I can get prepared."

Bell hasn't played in a game in nearly 20 months, a lengthy layoff as a result of his contract dispute with Pittsburgh. He sat out last season, signed with New York in March and is being held out of preseason games as a precaution.

The three-time Pro Bowl pick has been getting plenty of action in practice, though. And he feels ready to go.

But just to be sure, he goes up to guys such as nose tackle Steve McLendon, linebacker C.J. Mosley and safety Jamal Adams and asks them to get physical. He knows they might be wary, not wanting to injure him — so he'll try to make them angry by running harder so they'll give him a pop.

"I try to do that intentionally just so I can feel it," Bell said. "And, a lot of times you'll start seeing guys a little frustrated and they'll try to hit me back and that's what I need. They won't take me to the ground, they're not really going for my legs. Hitting me up top, things like that, I need all that."

Coach Adam Gase understands how important Bell is to his offense, giving quarterback Sam Darnold a versatile playmaker out of the backfield.

And from where Gase is watching, he sees a guy who is ready to play.

"It's his body demeanor and the way he's attacking the defense," Gase said. "Those guys know the difference between how a guy is going to (practice). Either we're thudding up and they're wrapping up and then when they see him start getting lower and accelerating toward them, they know, 'OK, he's looking to do some damage here.'"

The Jets have increased Bell's workload in practices the past couple of weeks, and he has been running well.

Still, the running back knows the real test won't come until he touches the ball for the first time



FRANK FRANKLIN/AP

After sitting out last season because of a contract dispute with the Pittsburgh Steelers, New York Jets running back Le'Veon Bell says he's looking for more contact to prepare for the season.

against Buffalo on Sept. 8.

"Obviously, it's still practice," Bell said. "I know once I get to the game, it's going to be a little different. But that's something I'll adjust to. I've been playing football my whole life."

Bell has been talking to Gase about how he'll be used in practice and in preseason games. Gase announced last weekend that Bell will be held out of games until the regular season, a scenario with which the running back says he's "completely fine."

"It's going to come," he said. "I don't think four plays of the preseason is going to help me for Week 1 in the game."

That doesn't mean Bell isn't itching to get on the field.

"I really hate watching Sam play," Bell said with a smile. "I just want to be in there with him because I know how special he is and I want to play with that."

"Obviously, I know everybody's eager to watch me play. I'm eager to play."

That's evident in the way Bell has prepared for the first two preseason games, dressing in full uniform despite knowing he won't see the field.



JEFF CHIU/AP

San Francisco 49ers linebacker Kwon Alexander is finally healthy from a knee injury he suffered in October with Tampa Bay.

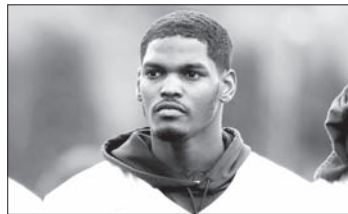
NFL



TED S. WARREN/AP



TED S. WARREN/AP



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Seattle Seahawks wide receiver DK Metcalf, left, just underwent minor knee surgery and is one of several first-year players on the team who are out with injuries. Defensive end L.J. Collier, center, has been out for weeks with an ankle injury and safety Marquise Blair, right, is dealing with back spasms. The players were the team's top three picks.

Seahawks' draft class decimated by injuries

By TIM BOOTH
Associated Press

RENTON, Wash. — When Cody Barton took a moment to think about it, the Seattle Seahawks rookie linebacker realized he has been going nonstop for about a year.

After his college career ended, it was straight into prep for the NFL combine. Then the draft, his first offseason workouts with the Seahawks and eventually training camp.

"We haven't had a break, really, since the summer of 2018," Barton said.

And it hasn't been an easy stretch for any of the rookies. Barton and the rest of Seattle's 2019 draft class have been slowed by injury problems throughout training camp, costing the rookies valuable opportunities to make an impression and get a feel for the NFL.

The injury bug issues were apparent Wednesday when none of the top three draft picks were on the practice field. Wide receiver DK Metcalf had minor knee surgery earlier this week while safety Marquise Blair was dealing with back spasms

'All the rookies out here, we're trying to get our exposure in the preseason and you have all these little things come up to where you can't play, that's challenging on a player.'

Cody Barton
Seahawks rookie linebacker

that flared up during Sunday's preseason game against Minnesota.

The two second-rounders joined first-round selection L.J. Collier on the medical report. Collier suffered a significant ankle sprain in the early days of camp.

In addition, Seattle has yet to see fourth-round pick Phil Haynes (sports hernia) and sixth-rounder Demarcus Christmas (back) on the field. Fifth-round pick Ben Bur-ir-Kiven missed the early part of camp following surgery.

Even Barton missed a few days after tweaking a groin muscle.

"All the rookies out here, we're trying

to get our exposure in the preseason and you have all these little things come up to where you can't play, that's challenging on a player," Barton said. "L.J., DK, they'll be fine. We also understand injuries happen."

Metcalf practiced last week, but then coach Pete Carroll announced after the Minnesota game that the big wide receiver needed surgery.

Carroll believes Metcalf will have a short recovery, though his status for the start of the season is in question. The coach wouldn't get into specifics about Metcalf's procedure.

"Excited that we got it done," Carroll

said. "It was the kind of thing we could have put off but we wanted to use the time frame that we had available and hopefully it will work out just right for us."

Blair's issue also seems to be a short-term situation.

But Collier's ankle injury continues to be troublesome. Carroll said Collier has yet to put full weight on the ankle while running.

"L.J., we are just going to have to wait it out," Carroll said. "In that regard, L.J. is the one that's frustrating because he hasn't really had a shot to get going."

One rookie who has stood out — and has yet to miss time — is defensive back Ugo Amadi, who was taken in the fourth round. Amadi had a special teams highlight against the Vikings with a perfectly timed tackle on punt coverage. He's also been playing at safety and nickel cornerback.

"Availability is the best ability," Amadi said. "Taking care of your body is huge. I learned that early from the veterans here. ... If you want to be able to get paid you've got to be out here." get the start at the nickel cornerback spot against the Chargers.

Treadwell 'showcased' as Vikings seek receivers

By BRIAN HALL
Associated Press

EAGAN, Minn. — Being a first-round draft pick, Laquon Treadwell has received several opportunities to secure a role in the Minnesota Vikings' offense.

His next chance might come with a new team.

Minnesota is still left searching for a reliable option for the third receiver spot behind Stefon Diggs and Adam Thielen.

"They're hard to separate right now," Vikings coach Mike Zimmer said of the backup receivers. "When we talk about it in the personnel meetings, it's things like that. One guy has a good day, then he has a bad day. The consistency of what they're trying to do is really hard to get a handle on. That's why I say these special teams, they need to get their rear ends going on that."

Treadwell's spot in the competition has seemed more afterthought than expectation this year. He is behind second-year, undrafted Chad Beebe on the depth chart and his spot on the roster became even more un-



BUTCH DILL/AP

Minnesota Vikings wide receiver Laquon Treadwell is likely closing in on the end of his lackluster tenure with the Vikings, three years after they drafted the wide receiver in the first round.

settled after Zimmer's comments following Sunday's second preseason game. Treadwell caught all four of his targets for 47 yards.

"We're trying to get Treadwell

the ball a little bit more in the second half," Zimmer said after the game. "Try to showcase him a little bit, I guess. He made some nice plays."

The nice plays have been few

and far between in three seasons for Treadwell. He has 56 NFL catches for 517 yards and one touchdown, while being plagued by drops.

It was no surprise this spring when Minnesota declined the fifth-year option on Treadwell's contract.

"I would love to be here," Treadwell said this week. "I wouldn't want to be nowhere else."

Hoping to stay, Treadwell said he's changed his outlook and is only focused on "winning."

"That's my mindset and it keeps things simple," Treadwell said. "I don't have to read the media. I don't have to pay attention to depth charts, none of that. They call my name to go in, if I win, everything else will take care of itself."

Beebe, who's also been holding for field goals at times, appears to have a job. He had four catches for the Vikings last season.

Former Canadian Football League standout Brandon Zylstra, who had one catch in the regular season last year, has recovered from an offseason injury and had

five catches for 37 yards and a touchdown in Sunday's game.

"I think the explosiveness is starting to come back a little bit for him now," Zimmer said. "I thought he did well (Sunday)."

Former Denver Broncos receiver Jordan Taylor has been in the mix this summer. Minnesota drafted two receivers in the seventh round of this year's draft, Olabisi Johnson and Dillon Mitchell, and also brought back speedy Jeff Badet after a year on the practice squad.

Special teams work will play a deciding role, and Zimmer also mentioned the eventual backups could come from another NFL roster.

Meanwhile, Treadwell doesn't mind being showcased for a chance to make any NFL roster.

"I hope I'll just get showcased more," Treadwell said. "That's what you want in this league, just to be able to go out and show what you can do. The more they show me, the more I'll do. The opportunities I get, try to make the most of my opportunities and let the rest take care of itself."

HIGH SCHOOL: DODEA PACIFIC



PHOTOS BY DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Senior Jack Carey, a transfer from San Antonio, takes over the starting quarterback duties for Kadena. His father, Brig. Gen. Joel Carey, is Kadena Air Base's 18th Wing commanding officer.

After 5 straight Far East finals, Kadena reloading

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

KADENA AIR BASE, Okinawa — Jack Carey is used to being around people in positions of authority. His father, Joel, a brigadier general, is the commanding officer of Kadena Air Base's 18th Wing.

Now, the younger Carey is being entrusted to become the new commander in chief of Kadena High School football's offense. He's the new starting quarterback on a team that's had a rich history of signal-callers but is virtually starting over after having graduated 18 seniors.

But the senior, who transferred to Kadena along with his family from San Antonio over the summer,

says he's not trying to emulate anybody who's come before him.

"I'm just doing my best to try to be worthy of my teammates around me," Carey said.

For coach Sergio Mendoza, in his 14th season at the Panthers' helm, Carey's arrival was like an answer to an offseason prayer.

"We needed a quarterback," Mendoza said. "And we have some young guys coming on, developing behind (Carey)."

Though only six starters and 10 total players return from a Panthers team that reached its fifth straight Far East final, the Panthers' have talent remaining from 2018.

Alfonso Mendez, a senior, saw plenty of snaps in the 2018 season and returns to the backfield of a Panthers offense that will run a mix of spread, Wing-T and Power-I. He'll be joined by a pair of sophomores, Trent Fawler and Xavier Peace, at the other back positions.

"I'm just going to do the best I can and not worry about the past," Mendez said. "Just do what I can, do it my way and hold myself up to my standard."

Three-fifths of Kadena's line graduated, but one of the returning linemen, senior Dean Owen, is in his fourth season with the program. He said it's up to him and his teammates to hold each other accountable and not think too much about what's come and gone.

"We have to work harder than any other team out there," Owen said.

Hard work is what Mendoza says his Panthers have done all summer long in preparation for a season that begins on Aug. 30 with a home scrimmage against island-rival Kubasaki, then the regular-season opener Sept. 6 at Kubasaki.

"These kids listen, they're focused, they're working really hard," Mendoza said. "This is fun. They're listening, they're learning and they're showing more cohesiveness than I've seen in many, many years."

That's not to say all the hard work will be done overnight, Mendoza said. His team is heavy in freshmen and sophomores, with an awful lot of learning to do in a short period of time.

"But they're learning. They're putting in the long hours," Mendoza said. "It's been exciting. In three weeks of long practices, they haven't slowed down, which is exciting. This team has heart, which is motivating for us coaches. There's nowhere I'd rather be than with a group like this."

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Kubasaki has size, but not experience

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — No need to worry about player size in Kubasaki football camp; coach Fred Bales and the Dragons have plenty of what he calls "biggs."

It's depth and experience, especially among what Bales calls his "ball position" players, that's in question.

Virtually every skills player from 2018 has either graduated or transferred from a Kubasaki team that lost its first three games, but went 2-2 in its last four, including a 61-12 home rout of Division II Yokota and a 19-11 road loss to eventual Far East Division I champion Nile C. Kinnick.

In any other year, Bales might put those beefy guys in the line. "But several of our more skilled guys are in the category of 'big,'" Bales said.

Indeed, only one player from last year's team, senior Haydn Peterson, will start at the position he played last season, inside linebacker.

He played in the line on both sides of the ball a season ago; now, he could play running back, and fellow senior Lucas Kappen, an other-veteran, could line up under center or in the shotgun in Bales' spread-option offense.

"The challenge is, we have to get everybody in the right place to maximize their potential so we can maximize the team's potential," Bales said.

Another of last year's linemen, senior Clint Reventlow, could move to tight end and linebacker. A couple of others with size and positions to be determined are senior Malik Brown and sophomore Sebastian Stone.

One skills player who fits those

traditional dimensions is Elijah Ferrell, a sophomore receiver/defensive back who transferred from Guam.

"Loads of potential," his old Panthers coach Jacob Dowdell said. "Speed and athleticism. He's still in the infancy of his route running, but ... I can see him getting a lot of touches on the ball."

Kubasaki began practices on Aug. 4. Rather than dwelling on its 5-16 ledger the last three seasons, Bales said the focus is on what's ahead, starting with the season opener Sept. 6 at home against Kadena.

"It's a new year. The summer is done. We have to work toward a common goal, to be the best we can be," Bales said. "It's a daily walk and that's the way it is every season."

He begins his 15th season at the Dragons' helm. It's a program that began the decade strongly, playing in five straight Far East Division I finals and winning one title in 2013.

That pendulum has swung in recent years, with the Dragons' archival, Kadena, playing in the last five D-I finals, with titles in 2014, '15 and '17.

"They're always the standard you have to live up to," Bales said of the Panthers. "Kadena has a great program, great continuity. We're just trying to get a good routine, getting better every day. We'll see how we look" when the Dragons scrimmage the Panthers on Aug. 30 at Kadena.

That might also be the start of the last season of Bales' coaching career. He's talked of retiring after the new school year, after 42 years of coaching, 32 as a head coach and 15 at Kubasaki.

"It's been a joyful journey, but at some point, you have to turn it over to the younger folk," he said.



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Sophomore Trent Fawler is one of three returning running backs the Dragons.

Kubasaki's Sebastian Stone, right, practices tackling technique on teammate Clint Reventlow.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Flashy & familiar

New coaches at Kansas, K-State are study in contrast

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. — About the only thing the football programs at Kansas and Kansas State have had in common much of the past three decades is the often desolate stretch of Interstate 70 that connects them.

The Jayhawks have the proud tradition of John Riggins and Gale Sayers, yet recent success has been so scant that they've churned through five coaches in the past 10 years. The Wildcats had virtually no tradition until Bill Snyder arrived, and he built a consistent winner tucked away in the Flint Hills.

Makes sense the two schools would take vastly different approaches to hiring new head coaches.

Kansas settled on Les Miles, 65, the "Mad Hatter" with Big 12 success at Oklahoma State and a national title at LSU on his résumé. The quirky, defensive-minded coach known for ribbing fans and his recent foray into films has personality, energy and experience on his side.

Kansas State went with Chris Klieman, 51, whose only experience at the Football Bowl Subdivision level came 22 years ago — one season as an assistant at Kansas. Yet the every-dollar, hard-working Klieman proved his coaching chops at North Dakota State, where in five seasons he went 69-6 and won four Football Championship Subdivision national titles.

Flashy and familiar.
Down-to-earth and largely unknown.
"I don't know what it was like a year ago. Everybody asks me about what it was," Klieman told The Associated Press in a wide-ranging interview. "I know what we're trying to instill here. Guys taking ownership of the program, guys getting invested in the program. It's their program. We're just guiding them. I want them to have input. I want them to have ownership. What was, I don't know."

So maybe Klieman and Miles aren't quite polar opposites.

The new Kansas coach had basically the same take.

"I think our players anticipated there



TRAVIS HEYING, THE WICHITA EAGLE/AP

Kansas State head coach Chris Klieman has little experience in the Football Bowl Subdivision, but his North Dakota State teams were 69-6 and won four Football Championship Subdivision titles.

being a new feeling." Miles said. "I think it's going to be a challenge to win games and win championships, but yeah, we're ready for that challenge."

To be sure, Miles understands the gargantuan task ahead of him.

Kansas hasn't been to a bowl game since 2008, the penultimate season of Mark Mangino's successful tenure. That was also the last time the Jayhawks won more than five games, let alone had a winning season. Four times in the intervening years they've won two games or fewer.

With losses along the way to the likes of Nicholls State, South Dakota State and seemingly every school in the Mid-America Conference, the Jayhawks had become not just the laughingstock of the state or the Big 12, they were the butt of jokes nationwide. Rarely did more than 15,000 fans show up to Memorial Stadium for home games, and even more rarely did anybody stick around for the second half.

Kansas has tried just about every avenue



RICH SUGG, KANSAS CITY STAR/AP

Kansas coach Les Miles brings plenty of spirit and experience to Lawrence. Miles enjoyed Big 12 success at Oklahoma State and won a national title at LSU.

to land a winning coach, too.

There was Turner Gill, the former Big 12 quarterback who had turned around lowly Buffalo. There was the well-known Charlie Weis, who once led Notre Dame to back-to-back BCS bowl games. There was David Beaty, the career assistant with ties to the successful Mangino era.

So when athletic director Jeff Long went searching for the next coach, he settled on an old friend with a record of success in the Big 12 and the kind of gravitas it takes to bring recruits to Kansas.

"He's built programs in the past. So when you're out and you want back in, you can feel the passion in the conversation," Long said. "From my view, for Les at this point in his career, the opportunity to step in and build a program — and rebuild us — and take us to a level of successful football was exciting to him and made a lot of sense for me to choose him."

Much like Long tapped a longtime friend, so did Kansas State athletic director Gene Taylor. Only he wasn't replacing a string of failed head coaches. Instead, he was replacing the winningest coach in school history, one whose statue stands outside the stadium that bears his name.

Yet in many ways Klieman is the perfect fit at Kansas State, where hard work and perseverance are valued more than most

places. Those are traits Snyder instilled in the program when he first arrived in 1988, and set about rebuilding arguably the worst program in college football history.

"Fundamentally there's more similarities between them than differences," said quarterbacks coach Collin Klein, a Heisman Trophy finalist under Snyder. "I think the style and organization of meetings and walkthroughs during our camp, getting our guys physically ready, that's all very similar."

"I know Coach Klieman's approach is being 1-0 today," Klein continued, "and stacking good days on top of each other is something that has been preached here a long time."

There have been more good days than bad at Kansas State lately, and Klieman's job is to sustain and build upon Snyder's success: 215 wins, 18 bowl games, rarely a losing season.

It's a much different challenge than the new coach at rival Kansas faces, but one no less daunting.

"There's nothing that surprises me anymore with the number of years and the head coaching opportunities I've had," Miles said. "I know what's coming. I know what to expect from my players and coaches. I kind of anticipated where we would be, and to be honest, so far I've been pleased."

Becton, Bowman among best on bowl-less teams

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Not every college football team makes it to a bowl, although 39 postseason games in the Bowl Subdivision can make it seem that way.

That leaves more than 50 teams whose seasons will end before December. Among those unfortunate squads there are terrific players who will go largely unnoticed. Or, more optimistically, maybe they will lead a big turnaround for their rebuilding programs.

Time to recognize some of the best players on teams that weren't bowl-eligible last year and probably won't be this season:

Louisville OT Mekhi Becton

Bobby Petrino's final season at Louisville was painful to watch. The Cardinals went 2-10 and were usually not competitive. New coach Steve Stivers is almost sure to start from scratch. The roster needs a massive overhaul, but he has a left tackle

in Becton who could play for a playoff contender. The 6-foot-7, 355-pound junior needs refinement, but his athleticism could make him a top-20 pick in the NFL Draft.

Texas Tech QB Alan Bowman

Bowman was tearing it up as a freshman for the Red Raiders until a partially collapsed lung limited him to eight games. He passed for 2,638 yards and 17 touchdowns in those games. After he was gone so were the Red Raiders' bowl chances. That led to coach Kliff Kingsbury getting fired, although things worked out OK for him. Bowman's presence on this list might be a bit of a stretch. It wouldn't be all that surprising if the Red Raiders get back to bowl eligibility in Matt Wells' first season as coach.

Illinois RB Reggie Corbin

Heading into the Year 4 of Louis Smith's tenure, the Illini are looking to reach bowl eligibility for the first time under the for-

mer Super Bowl coach. Corbin, a senior with blazing speed, broke out last season with 1,083 yards rushing on 8.5 per carry. He is only 200 pounds, but Illinois will probably need to get him more than 144 touches if it wants to go from four wins to six and a postseason game.

Arkansas LB De'Jon Harris

The Razorbacks did not win an SEC game in coach Chad Morris' first season, but Harris was one of the best — and busiest — linebackers in the conference. Harris led the SEC in tackles with 118. Arkansas is again leaning on inexperienced players and underclassmen on defense, which doesn't bode well for a major bounce back. Harris should again be busy.

Oregon State RB Jermar Jefferson

The Beavers were in a complete rebuild last year under first-year coach Jonathan Smith. Out of necessity, Smith made the

freshman the focal point of the offense after luring him out of California. Jefferson delivered seven 100-yard games, including 254 and two TDs against Arizona State. The Beavers finished 2-10 and are probably another year away from even thinking about a postseason push, but Jefferson could end up carrying an even bigger load as a sophomore.

Colorado WR Laviska Shenault Jr.

For the first month and a half of last season, Shenault was one of the best players in the country. He scored 11 touchdowns in six games and the Buffaloes started 5-1. A foot injury forced him out of three games and he wasn't the same when he returned. Colorado finished the season with seven consecutive losses to get coach Mike McIntyre fired. Shenault is a potential All-American and if he stays healthy the Buffs are a team worth watching even as new coach Mel Tucker rebuilds.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Freshmen could play key roles

By STEVE MEGARGE

Associated Press

There is a trickle-down effect from having freshman quarterbacks star in the last two national championship games.

Clemson's Trevor Lawrence capped his freshman season by leading the Tigers to a blowout of Alabama in last season's College Football Playoff title game. One year earlier, it was Alabama's freshman Tua Tagovailoa coming off the sideline to rally the Crimson Tide to an overtime victory over Georgia.

After seeing freshmen shine in the postseason, coaches aren't so hesitant about seeing what quarterbacks just out of high school can do at the start of a season.

At least three Power Five programs plan to open the season with a freshman starting quarterback. Arizona State is going with Jayden Daniels, No. 16 Auburn has selected Bo Nix and Sam Howell is getting the majority of the first-team reps at North Carolina.

Those teams have decided a newcomer has enough potential to make up for any freshman mistakes.

"He's not the savior, OK?" Arizona State coach Herm Edwards said after announcing Daniels as the starter. "I don't want anyone to think that. He's a freshman quarterback, like all freshmen are, and he's going to do a lot of good things and sometimes he's going to make some errors."

Not all the notable freshmen around college football play quarterback, of course. Here's a rundown of some freshmen who should make an immediate impact.

Arizona State QB Jayden Daniels

Daniels will become the first Arizona State freshman quarterback to start a season opener for the Sun Devils, as he won a four-man competition for the job. The 6-foot-3 Daniels was rated as the nation's No. 2 dual-threat quarterback and No. 35 overall prospect in his class according to composite rankings of recruiting sites compiled by 247Sports. He enrolled at Arizona State early enough to participate in spring practice. Arizona State is doubling down on youth at the quarterback position, as freshman Joey Yellen opens the season as Daniels' top backup.

North Carolina QB Sam Howell

This former top-100 prospect orally committed to Florida State in April 2018 but selected North Carolina during the December signing period after former Seminoles offensive coordinator Walt Bell left to take over Massachusetts' program. North Carolina



SUN DEVIL ATHLETICS/AP

Arizona State's Jayden Daniels will become the first freshman quarterback to start a season opener for the Sun Devils.

coach Nick Brown announced Sunday that Howell would get most of the first-team reps for the rest of preseason practices. Brown said the 6-foot-1 freshman's consistency gave him an edge over redshirt freshmen Cade Fortin and Jace Ruder, who also have been competing for the starting quarterback job.

Southern California DE Drake Jackson

Jackson enrolled at USC early and made a highlight-worthy play in the Trojans' spring showcase by making a one-handed interception and scoring on the play. USC coach Clay Helton said afterward that the 6-4 freshman reminded him of New York Jets defensive lineman and former Trojans star Leonard Williams. Jackson was rated as the No. 56 overall prospect in his class according to the 247Sports Composite.

Auburn QB Bo Nix

Nix is the son of Patrick Nix, who played for Auburn from 1992-95 and was the Tigers' starting quarterback when they went unbeaten in 1993. He's the nation's No. 1 dual-threat quarterback and No. 33 overall prospect in his class according to the 247Sports Composite. He gained over 12,000 career yards and accounted for 161 touchdowns (127 passing, 34 rushing) at Pinson Valley High School to set Alabama state records in both categories. Nix, who is 6-2, beat out redshirt freshman Joey Gatewood for the right to start Auburn's Aug. 31 season opener with No. 11 Oregon at Arlington, Texas.

LSU CB Derek Stingley Jr.

Stingley was the nation's No. 1 prospect in his class according to Rivals and was rated third according to the 247Sports Composite. He covered LSU's top receivers and recorded an interception in the spring game. He likely will open the season as a starter and also could contribute as a kick returner. During spring practice, LSU defensive back Kary Vincent called Stingley "a once-in-a-lifetime player to play with and a once-in-a-lifetime player



THE ADVOCATE/AP

LSU freshman cornerback Derek Stingley Jr. had an interception in the team's spring game in April.

to see." Stingley is the grandson of former New England Patriots receiver Darryl Stingley, whose NFL career ended after a head-on collision in a preseason game left him paralyzed. Stingley's father played minor league baseball and Arena Football.

Texas RB Jordan Whittington

Whittington played wide receiver at Cuero (Texas) High School but moved to running back during spring practice and immediately won praise from coaches and teammates. Texas coach Tom Herman said it's "one of the most amazing things I've seen in my 20-something years coaching is how a guy that's never played a position before in his life took to it that naturally." With incumbent starter Keatonay Ingram nursing a bruised knee during training camp, Whittington has had even more of an opportunity to make an impression. He's the nation's No. 34 overall prospect in his class according to the 247Sports Composite.

Other freshmen to watch

Notre Dame defensive back Kyle Hamilton, Alabama linebacker Christian Harris, Georgia wide receiver George Pickens, Nebraska running back/receiver Wan'Dale Robinson, Oregon defensive end Kayvon Thibodeaux, Tennessee linebacker Jordan To'o, Ohio State receiver Garrett Wilson.

Auburn's Wanogho chases new dream

By JOHN ZENOR

Associated Press

AUBURN, Ala. — Prince Tega Wanogho came to Alabama wanting to be the next LeBron James.

He became Auburn's left tackle instead.

Wanogho now is the anchor of the 16th-ranked Tigers' all-senior offensive line, some five years after he stepped on a football field for the first time.

A native of Delta State, Nigeria, Wanogho came to Alabama as a 16-year-old hoping to land a college scholarship — in basketball.

He wound up at Edgewood Academy in suburban Montgomery after getting noticed at a basketball camp. Wanogho then obliged when an Edgewood coach suggested giving football a shot, but he didn't know much about the sport that is big in the state. He played defensive end at about 225 pounds and quickly started getting interest from football programs, enough so that a reporter asked him if Alabama coach Nick Saban had visited.

"I was like, 'Who's Nick Saban?' It's crazy, because everybody thought it was funny," said Wanogho, who also played soccer growing up. "My teammates and coaches. The dude that was doing the interview, he thought it was funny, too. He was shocked because I didn't know who coach Nick Saban was. When I said that, everybody was surprised."

"I was like, you can't blame me because I came all the way from Nigeria and I'm here playing a new game. I don't really know what goes on here. I didn't even really know how big it was at that time. The whole time I was being recruited, I didn't know how big that was."

Wanogho, whose father died when he was 10, mostly knew about football from watching movies like "The Waterboy" and "The Longest Yard." Then major colleges started calling, with Kentucky the first to offer him a scholarship.

"He didn't understand the magnitude," said Christy Taylor, who served as his guardian along with husband Todd. "He hung up and went upstairs to do his

homework."

Taylor, who Wanogho calls "Mama C," said they got a bulletin board started putting pins up designating schools that had offered. By the end, there were 28 pins from Division I programs. The process was accelerated when he reclassified into the 2015 recruiting class.

Now 6-foot-7 and 305 pounds, Wanogho has packed on more than 60 pounds since arriving at Auburn as a defensive end. He redshirted in 2015 while recovering from a broken tibia and fibula sustained in basketball. Then coach Gus Malzahn asked if he wanted to move to the offensive line.

Offensive line coach JB Grimes is glad he did.

"I thought back in 2015 when we were recruiting that kid, that he'd be a heck of a left tackle," Grimes said. "And sure enough, he is. And he's come a long way. Does he have a ways to go? Oh, yeah. He's still got some learning to do but he's come light years."

"He still thinks he ought to be a tight end, OK? But he knows for his future that he's right where he needs to be. I think he's about to have a great year. I really do."

The transition didn't always go smoothly for Wanogho. He lost the starting job four games into the 2017 season and last year's offense struggled at times, including on the line.

Now, instead of the NBA, Wanogho is eyeing an NFL career. He has gotten buzz as a potential early round draft pick.

"I was a big basketball guy and the dream was always playing in the NBA someday," he said. "I always tried to compare myself to LeBron James. I know I'm not, but I always tried to do that. My dream and my focus just switched after my injury from basketball and I started playing football. "Now, it's really big for me being able to hear my name and people talking about me. That's a blessing for me, too, just seeing people actually talking about me. Me coming from Africa, just to have this whole big opportunity in front of me, is a real blessing for me."



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Auburn offensive lineman Prince Tega Wanogho came to Alabama from Nigeria wanting to be the next LeBron James. He became Auburn's left tackle instead.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Heat is on for FSU, USC coaches entering season

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

Can a coach really be on the hot seat in Year 2?

We might find out this season at Florida State. Willie Taggart is trying to turn things around after a rough debut with the Seminoles, who failed to make a bowl game for the first time since 1981. Taggart walked into a bigger cleanup job than he expected, but he owns that 5-7 record. Finances would likely make firing Taggart untenable after this season, as he would be owed about \$17 million. If FSU shows progress, that should be enough to keep Taggart around for 2020. But what if things get worse in Tallahassee, like 4-8 or 3-9? University leadership could then face a difficult decision.

The heat might be turned up for these coaches, too.

Clay Helton, Southern California

Helton avoided the axe after the Trojans went 5-7 last season,

much to the chagrin of a good chunk of the fan base. That might not have happened if USC had a more experienced athletic director and a university president in place at the time, but the school's general dysfunction gave Helton a chance to fix the issues with a staff makeover. Most notably, Graham Harrell was brought in as offensive coordinator.

Helton went 21-6 with a Rose Bowl victory and Pac-12 title in his first two full seasons as USC coach, but his job status is one of the stories to follow this season.

How many victories will it take for him to keep the gig? Eight? Nine? 10? Each week will be a referendum on the state of the Trojans, who face perhaps the most challenging first six games of any team in the country (Preston State, Stanford, at Brigham Young, Utah, at Washington, at Notre Dame). If all that wasn't enough, Urban Meyer will be spending the weekends in Los Angeles this fall as an analyst for Fox.

Lovie Smith, Illinois; Chris Ash, Rutgers

Smith is 9-27 with four Big Ten victories in three seasons, although the program has taken baby steps forward. Ash is 7-29 with three conference victories, but the Scarlet Knights regressed to 1-11 last year.

Similarly, both work for ADs with a strong desire to NOT change coaches. Another baby step for Illinois could keep Smith safe. That might not be enough for Ash, but this probably isn't a straight bowl-or-bust situation in New Jersey, either.

Bob Davie, New Mexico; Tony Sanchez, UNLV

A couple of Mountain West coaches who have likely exhausted the patience of their schools. UNLV made it clear after last season the Rebels need to go bowling in Sanchez's fifth season. The program can't move into a shiny new NFL stadium in 2020 without something to get fans ex-



AP

USC head coach Clay Helton went 21-6 in his first two seasons, but the fan base is restless after the Trojans went 5-7 in 2018.

cited. In lieu of victories, a coaching change is the alternative.

Budget issues at New Mexico probably bought Davie an eighth season, but after consecutive 3-9 seasons, another clunker is not likely to be written off.

Steve Addazio, Boston College

In six seasons, Addazio's Eagles have won seven games five times and finished 4-4 in the ACC four times. He is 38-38 overall. On one hand, BC might be the toughest job in the ACC, lacking facilities and resources to challenge Clemson, Florida State and Miami. On the other, this might be as good as it gets with Addazio. He got a two-

year extension through 2022 after last season, which did not exactly scream confidence.

Gus Malzahn, Auburn

Only at Auburn would a coach with a 53-27 record, entering the second season of a seven-year, \$49 million deal, be on the hot seat. Well, maybe not only at Auburn, but it's a pretty short list of schools where support is this mercurial. Malzahn is retaking control of play-calling in the hopes it will revive the offense. The Tigers have been one of the most difficult teams in the country to predict in recent years. Fitprisingly, the same can be said of Malzahn's long-term job security.

STARS AND STRIPES

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Pac-12 preview

Hardly sexy

Without a clear power, Utah the pick to win it

By GREG BEACHAM
Associated Press

The Pac-12's national championship drought hits 15 years this winter, and there are few signs of a respite. Several of the conference's traditional powers are in states of rebuilding or disarray heading into a season that's murkier than a Mike Leach metaphor.

Even the preseason media poll couldn't identify a clear favorite, with plucky Utah barely emerging on top after several schools essentially split the vote.

But to the coaches entrusted with returning the West Coast's major conference to national competitiveness, this seeming parity actually underlines the overall strength of a league on the rise again. Elite talent is easy to find around the Pac-12, and several programs are in a position to potentially put it all together.

"There are not a lot of conferences out there that can legitimately look up and say more than half their conference has a chance to win the conference," Stanford coach David Shaw said. "The people that know football know how deep and how difficult this conference is. The peo-

ple that only want to look in two spots, in the SEC and the Big Ten footprint, you can't win them over anyway, because they're not paying attention to the scope of college football."

Still, the Pac-12 doesn't have a traditional power in peak form after graduation losses at defending champion Washington and Stanford, Southern California's miserable 2018 season and the questions still looming around resurgent Oregon and its 5-4 conference mark.

Into the gap stepped Utah, the (relative) conference newcomer with numerous returning starters, an elite defense and promising quarterback Tyler Huntley. Whether the Utes live up to their hype or another power emerges, Huskies coach Chris Petersen is confident this league is on its way up again.

"Five or six years ago, the Pac-12 could do no wrong," Petersen said. "We were in the greatest position ever, and we were going to do this and that. And five years later, (people think) we don't even know how to play football anymore. It's always somewhere in between. I know we've got good players out here, and good coaches and programs. I think it's all cyclical."



TONY AVELAN/AP

Oregon quarterback Justin Herbert finally gets to play for the same coach in consecutive seasons.

Here are more things to watch during the Pac-12 football season:

Utes up front

Utah is the preseason favorite, but it's not going to anybody's head in Salt Lake City, according to coach Kyle Whittingham. In fact, he wants his Utes thinking not about national championships, but only about achieving Pac-12 supremacy, largely because the league's South Division teams are 1-7 in the league championship game. "We felt like we were going to have some preseason hype, and so we wanted to make sure that we got out ahead of it and talked to our players about just ignoring the noise and staying focused," Whittingham said.

Herbert's return

Quarterback Justin Herbert

returned to Oregon for his senior season, and he'll finally have the same coach in consecutive years. Mario Cristobal's Ducks should contend for their first league title since 2014 if Herbert takes another step from his 3,000-yard season last fall. Herbert calls it "a huge bonus" to have the same coaching staff for the first time: "We go from having spent all this time learning to teaching. We're able to reach out to those younger guys, get them dialed up and up to speed so they are able to jump in as soon as we can."

Huskies recharge

Although Washington is heading into its biggest rebuilding season in a half-decade after losing 13 starters from last year's champions, quarterback Jacob Eason has hopes running high in Seattle. The touted local product re-

turned from Georgia last season in hopes of replacing four-year starter Jake Browning this fall. Petersen insists Eason is competing with sophomore Jake Haener in camp, but most expect Eason and running back Salvon Ahmed to step in for Huskies stalwarts Browning and Myles Gaskin.

The Chip dip

UCLA is coming off its worst season since 1977 after going 3-9 in coach Chip Kelly's debut. Those Bruins largely got a pass due to the program's steady decline in Jim Mora's final seasons, and they also beat USC. But the deep-pocketed UCLA boosters who attracted Kelly will be looking for some return on their investment this fall, and they might get it if Kelly fields an improved offense around quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson.

Several new coordinators have chance to make impact

By RALPH D. RUSSO
Associated Press

As major college football programs grow in size and complexity, the most important job a head coach has is hiring talented assistants and staff members.

Coordinators are especially pivotal because they often operate with near autonomy—especially when their expertise differs with that of the head coach. A good coordinator can change a program.

A few head coaches are banking on that this season. These new coordinators could have a major impact on not just their teams, but the entire college football season.

Kendal Briles, Florida State

Coach Willie Taggart drew some scrutiny for hiring Briles, who worked for his father, Andy, at Baylor as that school went through a bruising scandal tied to sexual assault accusations. There is no questioning the move based on previous on-field results. At Baylor, FAU and Houston, Kendal Briles' offenses have put up big numbers. He will have to work around a deficient offensive line, but if the offense clicks, then Taggart's second year in Tallahassee should be much better than his first.



LM OTENO/AP

New Florida State offensive coordinator Kendal Briles, will have to work around a deficient Seminole offensive line.

Dan Enos, Miami

New coach Manny Diaz calls luring Enos from Alabama the most important transfer he landed this offseason. Few teams have been so shackled by poor quarterback play the past couple seasons. If Enos can turn either N'Kosi Perry, Tate Martell or Jar-

ren Williams into an above-average QB, the Hurricanes' first year under former defensive coordinator Diaz could be a memorable one.

Josh Gattis, Michigan

Gattis is perhaps the most intriguing new offensive coordinator in the country as Jim Harbaugh seems to be ceding control in favor of a more modern approach. It's not as if the Wolverines weren't running spread elements and run-pass options last season with quarterback Shea Patterson. But bringing in Gattis suggests a more immersive approach. Considering all the attention and scrutiny Harbaugh gets, however this goes will either be viewed as a wild success or a spectacular failure even if the reality is somewhere in between.

Alex Grinch, Oklahoma

Grinch quickly built a reputation for putting together competitive defenses without a bunch of blue-chippers at Washington State, then spent last year at Ohio State. He bounced to Oklahoma this offseason as Lincoln Riley tries to find a solution to the Sooners' lingering defensive issues. The core problem in Norman seems to be

talent acquisition and development, which takes time to fix. Oklahoma hopes Grinch can clean up the missed tackles and assignments and get the Sooners' defense to respectable in 2019.

Graham Harrell, Southern Cal

Harrell was Plan B for USC coach Clay Helton when Kliff Kingsbury bailed on the Trojans OC job to become an NFL head coach. Harrell gets to plug former five-star recruit JT Daniels into his version of the Air Raid. How well that works out could very well determine if Helton keeps his job. No pressure, Graham.

Greg Mattison and Jeff Hafley Ohio State

New Buckeyes coach Ryan Day swiped Mattison from Michigan. One of the most respected defensive coaches in the country, the 69-year-old Mattison now joins forces with the 40-year-old Hafley to remake a defense that was maybe the worst in school history last year. Scheme tweaks include the use of a promising defensive back Shaun Wade in a safety/linebacker hybrid role.

SPORTS




Battered, bruised
Seattle's draft class decimated
by injuries » **NFL, Page 58**

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

No favorite

It's anyone's guess
who's the best
in the West
Page 63



Utah quarterback
Tyler Huntley
threw for 1,788
yards and 12
touchdowns
last season,
but missed the
final five games
because of a
broken collarbone.

Rick Bowmer/AP

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